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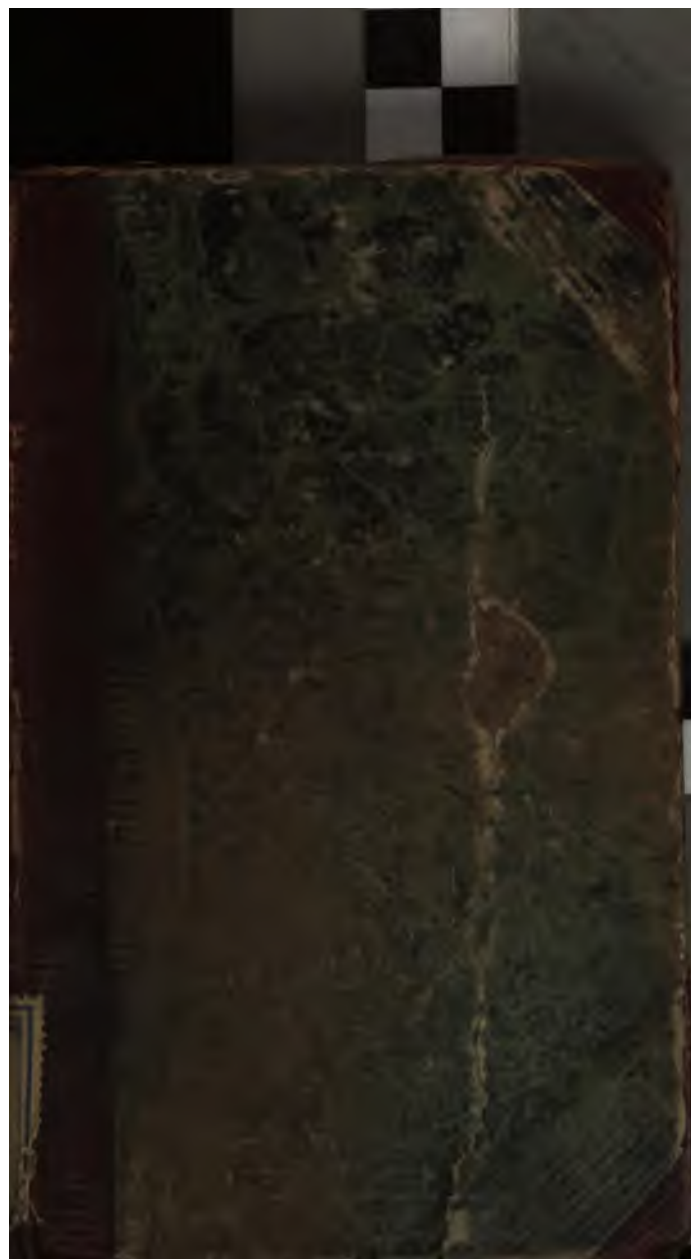
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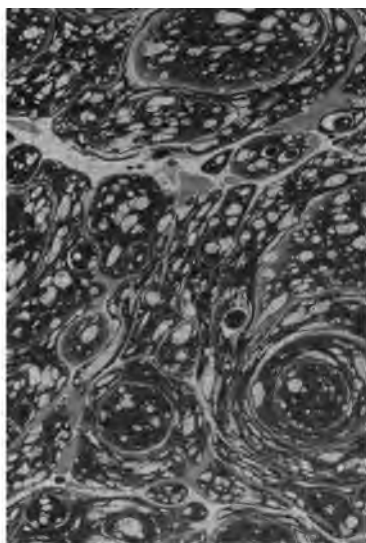
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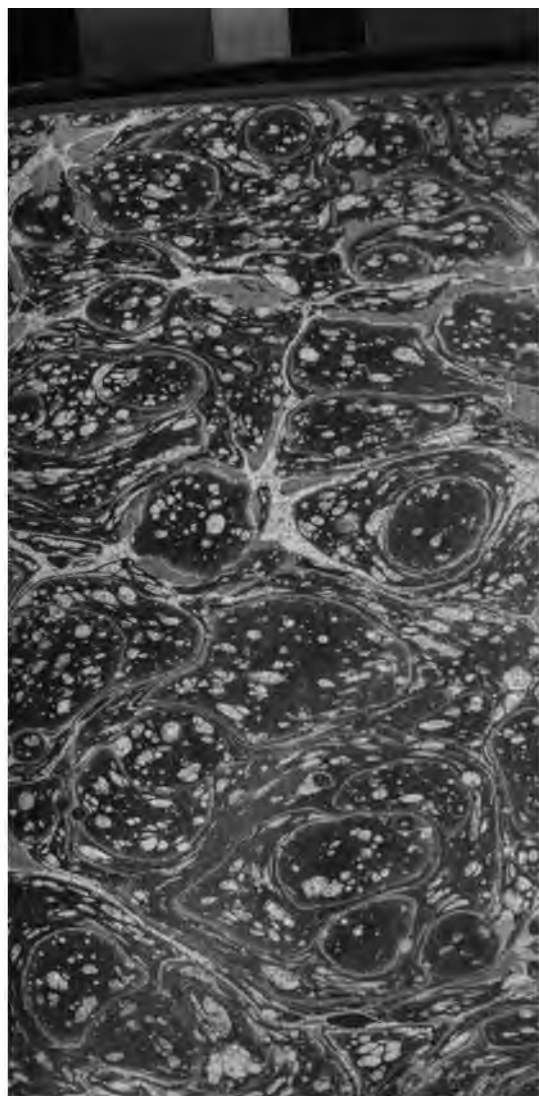
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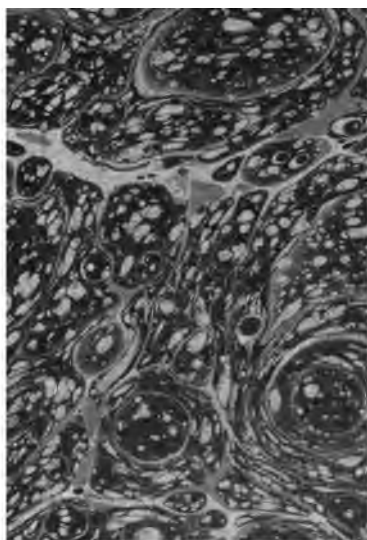
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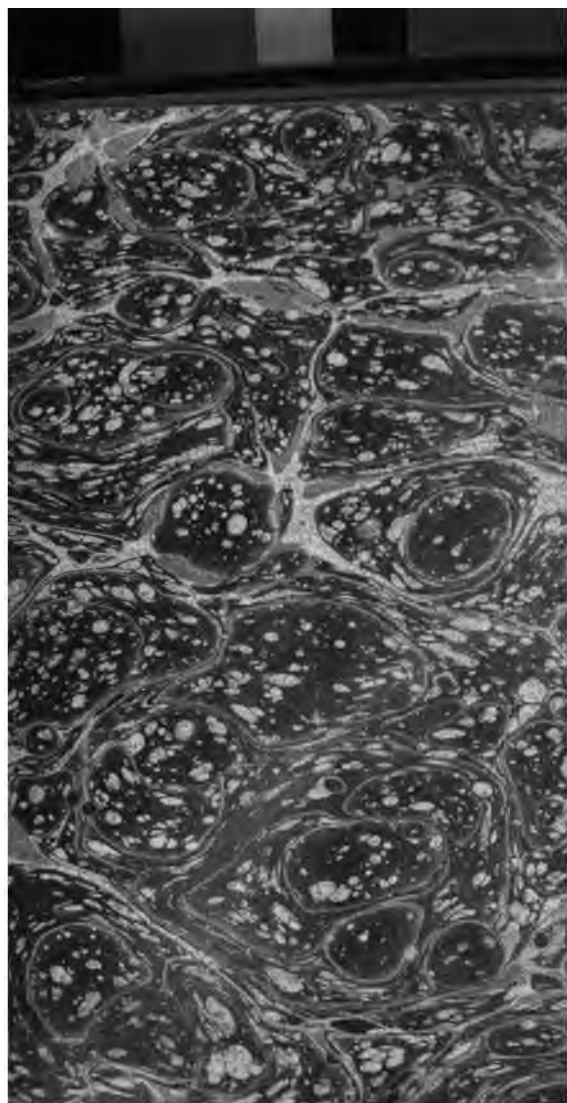
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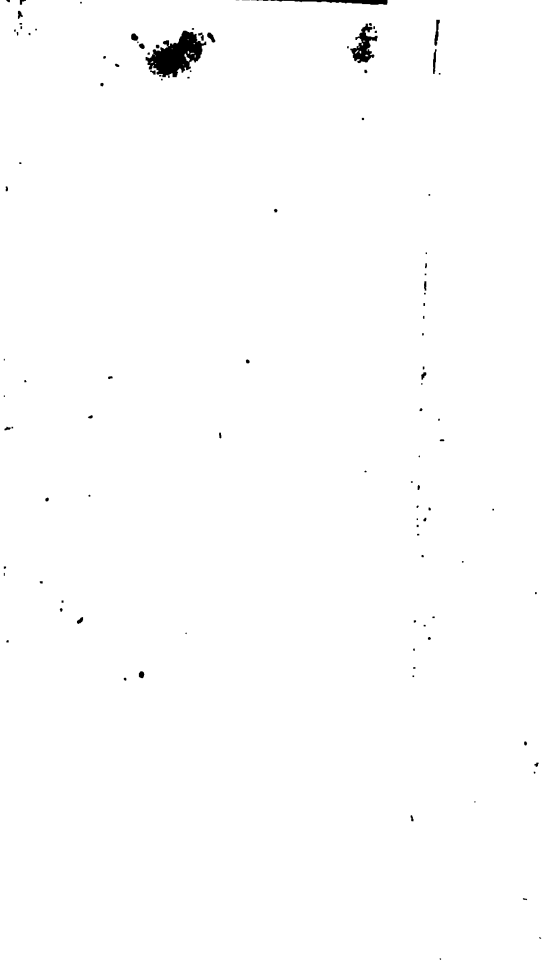






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Charles Richard Cameron



THE
History
OF
SUSAN GRAY.
as related
By a Clergyman.



HISTORY
OF
SUSAN GRAY;

AS RELATED

BY A CLERGYMAN:

Caroline
Designed for the Benefit of

YOUNG WOMEN

WHEN GOING TO SERVICE, &c.



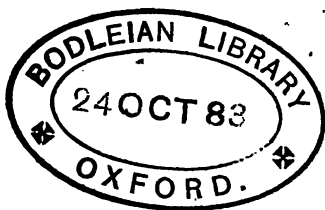
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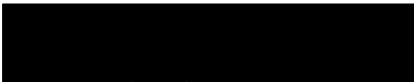
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1816.





325k Day

THE HISTORY
OF
SUSAN GRAY.



IN my parish, not far from the fine town of Ludlow, on the bank of the beautiful river Teme, are the garden, the little orchard, and the ruins of the pretty cottage which many years ago were rented by James Gray.

A fine wood of tall trees shelters this pleasant spot from the cold north-wind, and a row of large willows grows at the foot of the garden beside the river. When I first came to my living, I became acquainted with James Gray. He was an honest good young man, and he was so happy as to have a wife who feared God: the character still given in that country by those who remember Mary Gray, was that she was a pious, sober-minded young woman—"a keeper at home," Tit. ii. 5. as the Apostle exhorts women to be, and a most kind and dutiful wife.

James gained a tolerably comfortable livelihood by working in his garden. He cultivated his land with so much care, that he had the earliest and best peas and beans;

For some years these good you lived most happily in their cottage true that they were obliged to work hard : and now and then, as I have told, in a severe winter to live rather hard also : but they loved each other, and their God, they thought it their duty to please each other ; and as the holy scriptures say, " a dinner of herbs, whereof a man eateth, is better than a stalled ox, and thereof he shall be satisfied." Prov. xv. 17.

After his daily work, James never neglected reading a chapter in the Bible, and prayer with his wife before the bed ; for, as he often used to say, " Lay ourselves down in our beds, and let us say, ' Lord, we are not whether we shall be ever suffered from them again : many have died

It pleased Heaven that Mary Gray should have but one child : but this child, although every one who saw her declared her to be one of the finest little girls in the country, never was foolishly indulged or spoiled by her father and mother.

Although little Susan's parents would have rather starved themselves, than have let their child want any thing which was good for her, yet they never gave her any thing for which she cried ; they never suffered her to shew angry airs, or to disobey the least of their commands. For as some very wise man remarks, if a father or mother suffers a child at five or six years of age to disobey his will, that child at twelve or fourteen will go nigh to break his parent's heart. The stubborn wills of children should be broken whilst they are small and weak, and yet dependent on their parents. It is too late to subdue an obstinate child, when that child is nearly old enough to provide for himself. But although Mary Gray never spared correction when it was necessary, yet there was not in the neighbourhood a kinder mother ; when Susan was good, she would play with her, she would sing to her, she would tell her stories, gather her flowers, and when she had leisure from her work, *she would carry her into the green fields to shew her the high blue hills afar off, the*

in God, and endeavoured to fulfil his
 and it pleased him to take them from
 world of sorrow and labour, to that
 place where men are made "equal
 the angels, and are the children of
 " Luke xx. 36.

their death seemed to be a sad evil to
 little girl, for whom I and my wife felt
 in sorrow, that had we not had many
 children of our own, we would have
 her into our own family. As soon
 dear father and mother were dead,
 was carried to the parish poor-house;
 she had remained there about two
 , an old woman, her father's aunt,
 ed in Ludlow, undertook to maintain
 she should be twelve years of age, if
 parish would allow her twelve-pence

parish having given their consent to

my children (for so I call my parishioners) I went several times to Ludlow to inquire after Susan Gray, but could hear nothing of her; her old aunt was dead, and her house shut up.

Thus it was out of my power to serve the daughter of the worthy James and Mary Gray; but I trusted that Heaven, who "visits the sins of the parents upon the children unto the third and fourth generation," would not fail to bless the child of these excellent people: and so as I hoped it proved to be. God did bless Susan Gray: for a time indeed did he try her; but at length he made her who had sown in tears reap in joy, and rewarded her with an exceeding great reward.

James and Mary Gray had been dead about thirteen years, when one evening, as I was sitting by my fire with my wife and family, I was called out to a poor woman, who kept a very homely but reputable lodging-house in the village. I made bold to come, sir, said she, to ask you to read prayers this evening to a poor young woman, who is I fear at the point of death.

And who, said I, is this young woman?

I know but little of her, answered she:— she came to my house fourteen days ago; soon after that great storm of thunder and lightning which struck the church steeple

sted your great pear-tree, sir. It was twelve o'clock in the night when she d at the door. I happened to be up, g some work, or I could not have let

pray, asked my wife, who had step- t into the kitchen after me, from e do you suppose she comes?

ed, replied the woman, I should think o great distance; for although she nall bundle of linen in her hand, she ither hat nor cloak on.

r, said my wife, looking at me and g her head, that this is some unfortu- ounting creature, who knows not the God.

y, madam, said the woman, I would h to harbour any bad person in my but I really think that this poor

one by one the few clothes which she brought with her. She has a handsome Bible and Prayer-book, which are constantly in her hands: these, she says, she would not sell if she could possibly help it, for she calls them her only comforters.

Did you not say, asked my wife, that Farmer Flemming knew this poor girl's father and mother?

Yes, madam, replied the woman; they lived many years ago in this parish; their names were Gray.

Gray! exclaimed my wife; is it possible! And she looked at me.

I immediately put on my hat, and following the woman, hastened down into the village, thinking as I walked along of the wonderful ways of God: how sometimes for a season the good seem to be chastened and the wicked to flourish. But we know that all things work together for good to them that love God. Rom. viii. 28.

When I was arrived at the lodging-house, I was conducted into a small yet clean room; where on a straw mattress, and covered only with a thin blanket, lay a young woman, apparently in a kind of doze. She was very pale, and seemed to be almost at the gates of death; but there was nothing disgusting or frightful in her, as there is in bad people when they are sick or about to

die. She was perfectly clean and neat, and her face was composed as the face of a little child; for it seemed that she had no wicked passions to disturb or agitate her.

Whilst I looked at her, as I stood by her bedside; for I would not suffer the woman of the house to awaken her; I could not help thinking of James and Mary Gray, and I said to myself, is this the same pretty lively Susan, who not many years ago, was blessed with a kind father and mother to take care of her, and to watch over her! and is she now without a friend, without a home? Is sickness so soon come upon her, and must she die, whilst yet in the flower and prime of life? "But the days of man are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth."

standing wherefore I turned from her, and why I did not answer, said,

Sir, I fear by the freedom of my speech, I have offended you. You perhaps do not remember Susan Gray. My father and mother lived many years ago in the little cottage on the river-side just below the church.

By this time I had recovered myself, and turning to her I took her hand and said, poor young creature, do you think it possible that I should be offended at your innocent joy on seeing me. No, my daughter, I have not forgotten you: I have not ceased to remember with affection your worthy parents. But where have you lived since the death of your aunt? what has reduced you to this state? have you met with no friends in this world to protect you; and to supply to you the place of your lost parents?

She replied with a degree of piety which filled my eyes with tears of joy, I have not indeed, sir, met with many friends; but that God who is the Father of the fatherless has not forsaken me. I have had many trials and temptations, she added, and those who ought to have been my protectors laid snares for me. But I trusted that "Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, would deliver me from this present evil world, according to the will of my God

" and my Father." Gal i. 3, 4. And praised be God, said she, clasping her hands together, he has delivered me; I am now above the power of wicked pleasures. Although I am poor, sir, continued she, and soon must die, yet I am not unhappy; and now I am so far on my journey, I would not, were it in my power, be restored to health, and return again into the busy and wicked world.

While she was speaking she grew very faint: so for the present I besought her to speak no more of the things that were past, telling her that I hoped, should she get better, to hear all her history. Then taking up a prayer-book which lay by her side,

attend and wait upon the poor sick girl till her disorder had taken some turn either for the better or the worse; if death to so good a girl, as Susan proved to be, can be said to be worse than a restoration to health.

But methinks I run rather too much into length in my story; ~~for~~ although my wife's kind attention to Susan Gray still in reflection give me the greatest, the most heartfelt pleasure, yet strangers may not take the interest in them which I do; I shall therefore shorten this part of my story.

For about ten days my wife and I continued to visit Susan in the poor lodging house; at the end of which time she was so much better, that we removed her from thence to Nurse Browne's cottage, which being higher up the hill, and situated on the same sunny bank with my house, we thought would be more cheerful and airy for the poor girl.

Nourishing food and good nursing had done much for her; but still the doctor, who sometimes visited us from Ludlow, declared she could not live. She had caught a cold, which had fallen upon her lungs, and was in a deep decline, which we believed would probably end in her death before winter. But although she as well as *those about her* knew that she was in a dying state, yet never did I see a more cheerful

was trimmed, and on
ing journey which she was so
She spent many hours of the
ding and prayer, and sometin
when the sun was high in the hea
he air was warm, she would sit
of the house, looking around
the green woods, the river r
gh the meadows, and the church
hill, where she hoped her body
and beside those of her dear pa
st her soul was mounting far abo
ds to that happy place, where
ho have endured temptation sh
eive the crown of life, which th
ath promised to them that love
ies i. 12.

Whilst she was at this cottage,
e and little, when she found hers

I am an old man, being seventy-four last old Christmas-day : I have been a Rector of this parish forty years ; and during that time I can say with King David, " I never " saw the righteous forsaken, nor his seed " begging their bread." Psalm xxxvii. 25. I will not say that misfortunes do not sometimes come upon very good people ; but God is " a strength to the poor man who " fears him, a refuge from the storm, a " shadow from the heat." Psalm xxv. 4.

Yet whilst I affirm this for the encouragement of those who try to serve their God to the best of their power, I must not hide from you who shall read this, what has been the end of all the bad people whom I have been so unfortunate as to know since I lived in this village. I will speak particularly of bad women. I never knew a vain, a light, or bold girl, whose end in this world was not shame, poverty, or disease. For a time a bad young woman may seem to prosper ; she may deck herself in silver and gold, she may paint her face and tire her head like the wicked queen Jezebel. But these are the words of God, " Hear now this, thou " that art given to pleasures, that dwellest " carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am " and none else besides me ; evil shall " come upon thee, thou shalt not know " *from whence it riseth : and mischief*

...yourself, nor suppose
see many bad women around
will spare them for their number
of Sodom, in which there were
men, was burnt with fire for
were there not ten good girls
village in which you live, that
the sinners would not save them
people will have their portion
which burns with brimstone.

Nor must you hope that you
by being secret in your crimes
not dark with God. He knows
thoughts; and if we suffer
filled with evil thoughts, he will
us into heaven when we die.

Attend therefore, my good
an old man says, who has
book from his cradle to his old



SUSAN GRAY's

ACCOUNT OF HERSELF.

THE early part of my life, whilst my beloved parents were living, is very well known to you, sir, said Susan Gray; I will therefore begin my story from the time when I was taken by my aunt, from the poor-house in this parish to her dwelling in a little narrow street in the town of Ludlow. I was too young to feel very much the sad change; a sad one indeed it was, for even in the poor-house I had lived in cleanliness, and had been encouraged to behave well, but with my poor aunt I lived in dirt and rags; I was suffered to keep company with bad children, to tell lies, to take God's name in vain, and even to steal. My aunt was old, and made herself very sickly by the constant habit, from her youth up, of drinking spirits and strong liquor. She had never been an industrious cleanly woman; and now that she was advanced in years, she became so dirty and disagreeable, that no decent person cared to enter our house.

She had since the death of her husband, sold by little and little all her furniture, till there was nothing left in her house but two or three broken chairs, a dresser which had not been properly cleaned for years, some

the wickedness which went on.
My aunt not only herself to
in vain, and entirely neglected
duties, never going to church
she encouraged all sorts of
come about her. I never
for although she often indulged
wishes, giving me of the best
had to eat or drink, and suffered
unpunished for all my faults.
times fell into the most violent
me upon the most trifling
would sometimes beat me severely
ing down her tobacco pipe
and would at the same time
swear and tell lies, without
in the least.

In this manner I lived till

as a companion a little girl of my own age, the daughter of a widow who kept an huckster's shop exactly opposite to my aunt's house.—This child, whose name was Charlotte Owen, was not much better taught than myself, although there was scarcely a girl in the town who was dressed in a more costly manner. Her mother had often forbid her to play with me, telling her that she was much above me, and that it was beneath her to be seen with a little ragged girl. But Charlotte was fond of me because I was lively and active, because I was more expert than herself in finding bird's nests, and in catching butterflies; and she therefore resolved that she would still play with me unknown to her mother.

When Charlotte and I had got into the fields opposite to the castle, instead of looking for sticks, we began to run races and to gather flowers.

At last being tired we sat down upon the grass, and began to talk.

The day after to-morrow, said Charlotte, is Sunday, and I shall go to church.

So shall not I, I said; I never go to church, I have not time.

Oh! said Charlotte, it is not because you have not time, that you do not go to church. I can tell you why though.

And why? said I hastily.

Because, said Charlotte, you have nothing but those dirty rags to go in : what do you think the people would say to see such a creature come into the church ?

I began to be very angry, and jumping up, I said, don't talk to me about rags ; I don't see what any body is the better for the gown they wear. I am as good as the best of them, indeed I am ; and I began to cry with passion.

I wish I had my mother's great looking-glass here, said Charlotte, laughing, that you might see yourself in that old brown stuff gown and ragged apron, and find what a different sort of figure you cut to me, in this nice stuff coat, this scarlet petticoat,

When I had gathered as many as I could carry, and had fastened them together, I returned homeward.

As I was crossing a narrow green lane not far from the town, I saw in the hedge one of the prettiest little birds I had ever beheld. He was not much larger than a robin, and had a hooked bill like a hawk, but his feathers were of the brightest red, blue, and purple. I immediately laid down my fagot, and walked softly up to the bush in which he sat; but no sooner had I put out my hand to take hold of him, than he hopped through the hedge into the next field: I followed him there, and thought I was sure of him, when he again made his escape back into the lane.

To shew you, sir, in what a sad wicked state my mind was, when I saw that the little bird had again escaped from me, I became excessively angry, and took up a stone to throw at him; but the stone by the care of God, who knoweth even when a sparrow falleth to the ground, who loveth all his creatures, and who will avenge the cause of the smallest animal who is wantonly tormented, fell at some distance from the little bird.

At length with much trouble I caught the pretty little creature, and was surprised to find that he was so tame as to sit upon my finger, as my aunt's magpie used to do.

was so delighted with my prize, that casting my sticks, I hastened into the house, proudly holding up the bird who rested quietly upon my hand.

Just as I was got into one of the largest rooms, I heard somebody cry out, Ah ! there is my mistress's paraquet ; and immediately a decent elderly woman came up to me and said, with an air of much joy, my good girl, where did you find my mistress's

bird indeed, said I ; it is not my mistress's bird. No, replied the woman, that cannot be ; he flew out of my mistress's room this morning, and over the garden into the fields.

For all that he is not your bird, I answered ; he is mine ; and I was going to run off with him, when she caught hold of my

My aunt was at first very angry with the servant : but when she heard that I was to have half-a-crown, if I would consent to part with the bird, she turned all her anger upon me, and bade me give it to the servant, and follow her to her mistress's house to receive the money.

I obeyed ; but I looked gloomy and sulky, and went muttering the whole way to the lady's house.

We passed through several streets, till at length we came to one which leads up to the castle. The servant stopped before an old house close by the gates of the castle-walk ; she opened the door, and bade me wait in the hall.

Whilst I stood there I stared around me with wonder, for I had never before been in a house belonging to gentlefolks. The hall was a large room, hung round with pictures, which I afterwards learned were taken from the history of the Bible. At the farther end was a window, partly filled with colored glass, which looked into a garden full of tall trees ; beside the window was a clock made of very shining black wood, gilt with golden flowers. On one side of the hall was a door which opened into a kitchen, and on the other was one which led into the parlour.

When the servant had brought me into the house, she went straight towards the

er the fire-place was a colored pi
very pretty little girls, one o
n orange in her hand, and one
pon her finger, and the least held
the fire-side sat an old lady.
ot then know what a sweet go
as, or I should have cried fo
as very short, and having h
her mouth had fallen in. But s
and her eyes were bright and
good-humoured ; so that her fa
ry agreeable. She was dresse
silk gown, with a short white a
d long ruffles and a white hoo
). A little round table stood
pon which lay her large bible,
ellow cat was asleep at her feet
, madam, said the servant, goin

headed stick in her hand, I will go myself, said she, and speak to the child.

I was by this time in a better humour ; and when the old lady came up to me, and began to talk to me in a gentle and kind way, I felt no longer inclined to be cross, but I smiled and courtesied, and gave an account of the way in which I had found the bird as civilly as possible. When the old lady had talked to me for some time, she called her servant, and said to her, Sarah, I do not know whether my memory may have failed me, but I think there is some resemblance between this child, and what my eldest daughter was just before she died.

It is now forty years or more, replied Sarah, since my dear young mistress's death, and being then but young, I do not remember her very well.

But, said the old lady, look at the picture of my dear Clary, as it hangs there over the mantle-piece, and tell me if she has not the same white hair and rosy color, and the same smiling eyes as this little girl : then looking kindly at me, she asked me many questions about my parents, and my way of living ; and when I had answered them, she gave me the money which had been promised me, and told me to come again to her house four days afterwards.

"But be sure," added she, "before you come again wash yourself quite clean, and comb your hair; for however poor you may be, there can be no necessity for uncleanness."

Thus did Almighty God provide a friend for me, remembering the virtues of my excellent parents; for as the holy Psalmist says, "Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; his seed shall be mighty upon earth, the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Surely he shall not be moved for ever; the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance. Ps. cxii. 1, 2, 6."

So did God in his mercy remember my parents; and when they were no more, he

When I was dressed, she took me by the hand into the parlour; and said, here, madam, is the little girl to whom you are so good.

The old lady got up from her chair; and having put on her spectacles, she looked at me for some time, and turning me round, said,

'Tis a nice little tidy girl to look at, I wish, Sarah, we could as soon put her soul in order as we have her body.

Ah! madam, answered Mrs. Sarah, that is not so easy a matter; there is no great difficulty in washing the outside of the cup, but it is an hard matter to cleanse the inside.

Well, Sarah, said Mrs. Neale, but we will at least make the trial. I am told that this poor child has neither father nor mother: and it is a most blessed thing to be a father to the fatherless. Remember what will be said on the judgment-day to those who have clothed the naked, have fed the hungry, have visited the sick, and those that are in prison, "Come, ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matt. xxv. 34.

Then looking in my face, little Susan, she said, should you like to go to school to learn to be good? Will you be content to leave off playing in the street, and will you give up your time to working and to reading

Children who play in the streets with others, learn to lie and to swear, and perhaps to steal. They grow up to be idle, bold, bad men and women; and when they die, they go to a place where they live with devils in fire and brimstone, and chains and darkness. But holy children, who never lie, nor swear, nor steal; who pray to God, go to church, and learn to read and to work, become modest, industrious, honest men and women, and when they die go to heaven.

But I fear that I shall tire you with making my story too long. It is enough to say that good Mrs. Neale sent me to a very nice day school, and every Sunday I dined at my dear lady's house, and read to her in the bible.

and drank less; appeared cleaner in her person, and now and then went to church.

For four years Mrs. Neale continued to send me to school, and in that time I had learned to read very well, could do any kind of needle-work, and, by the means of Mrs. Sarah, knew a good deal of household business, of washing, ironing, and cooking in a plain way. But I had learned what was better than all this by means of my bible, and from going to church, and from the good counsel of my dear Mrs. Neale; I had learned what every one must do who wishes to go to heaven, and what they must avoid if they fear a place of torment after death.

When I was about the age of thirteen, my poor aunt died, and as I now had no home, Mrs. Neale took me entirely into her family, to wait upon her, and to assist Mrs. Sarah, who was getting past her work.

I lived in this family for more than two years; and these were the happiest years of my life. Not a day passed over my head, but I received some good instruction from my dear lady; and I endeavoured as much as lay in my power to profit by these instructions, and hourly to become wiser and better.

At length it pleased God to take from me my beloved Mrs. Neale, after an illness of a few days. She died at the great age of eighty-two. A few hours before her death

ed me to her bed-side, and talked to
ach a way as I never can forget.

Dear Susan, she said, in a short time I
taken from this world, where I have
many hard trials, and I trust, through
mercy, shall go to that happy country
where is no sorrow nor crying.

Do not weep, my Susan, for I am going,
on the merits of my redeemer, to the
children and kind husband whom I have
lost, and in a few years, my child, I
shall see you again. Only continue to be a
good girl; remember the commandments of
God; be not drawn aside from your duty by
the pleasures of this world; pleasures
endure only for a short season, and
which is eternal torment.

When told me, that knowing she must
die, she had been long endeavouring

and ironing, and by needle-work. She is an industrious woman, and bears a good character, and has undertaken to receive you into her house for three years ; during which time she will improve you in her business, and you will then be fit to wait upon a lady.

I could not for some time answer, for my tears and sobs almost choked me ; but when I could speak, I thanked my dear lady for her kindness, and promised never to forget the good things she had taught me.

She then gave me three guineas to provide me with clothes whilst I was with Mrs. Bennet ; from whom I was to receive no wages ; and also she gave me her Bible and Prayer book, and a black stuff gown and petticoat to wear as mourning for her.

The same night this dear lady died ; and I remained in the house only till the funeral was over : then taking leave, with many tears, of Mrs. Sarah, who set off the next day to return to Cornwall, where she was born, and where all her family had lived, I went to my new place.

It was a small, yet very neat cottage in the midst of a garden ; there was behind it a hill covered with tall trees, and before it were many pleasant green meadows, which reached down to the river, through which was a pathway which led to Ludlow. The town itself would have been plainly seen from

... she wiped away my
ove to put on a more cheerful
is a fine summer's evening, and
t was sitting before the house-door.
My old companion, Charles,
whom I had seen but little since
ed with Mrs Neale, was with her.
en a walk that evening to see her.
Oh, here is Susan Gray, cried
soon as she saw me.

Welcome Susan, said Mrs. Bennet.
I sit down, my good girl. So she
ced a chair for me beside her, and
hand upon mine, added, I am glad
you here, child. You and I shall
tly well, I am sure : and if you
r work, you shall have no cause
old lady's death, for you shall
ning. . . .

so happy in my life as I have been these last two years.

Charlotte laughed, and Mrs. Bennet staring freely in my face, said, come, child, wipe away those tears, and let me see no more of them; nothing spoils beauty like pining and crying.

Then I never will cry, said Charlotte, or I shall never get a husband.

Mrs. Bennet laughed, and clapping her on the shoulder, said, thou art a wise girl. Then giving me a dish of tea, come, cheer up, child, she added; if you could but look a little more bright, you need not be ashamed to shew your face with any one. I dare say, before you have served half your time with me, I shall have some smart young fellow from Ludlow coming after you, with his fine speeches, and I know not what.

She was going on, when I, remembering how often Mrs. Neale had warned me that God hated foolish and light jestings, adding, that if I hoped to enter into the kingdom of heaven, I must keep my mind free from every kind of impure and unholy thoughts, hastily drank the tea which she offered me, and then getting up, said, that I was ready to do any work which she might have for me in the house.

Oh, sit you down again, answered she; *I have nothing for you to do to-night. No*

remained silent.

Bless me, cried Charlotte, how is it possible! why, we have affirmed to suppose, by telling her that she was losing her beauty by crying.

No indeed, I answered, I am not at all at ease if you must know the truth, to write like the subject of your conversation, Charlotte. My dear Mrs. Neale points to many places in the Holy Scriptures where we are exhorted never to take up vain and unprofitable things. I could easily shew you those texts in my Bible. No, for heaven's sake, child, do not do so; keep your preachments to yourself. Why, I suppose, by and by the Unitarians will deny us the use of the Bible. Come, let us hear no more of this.

so much modesty and propriety, as she had the art to do.

The next subject of their discourse was fine clothes, and Charlotte gave an account to Mrs. Bennet, of the gowns and head-dresses which the ladies wore at Ludlow. Mrs. Bennet, in her turn, described some fine dresses which she had lately made up.

Charlotte wished that she could afford to buy a silk gown, and said, she should never be easy till she could get one. Then turning to me, Susan, she said, how are you off for clothes? Have you any finery to shew us? Come, open your box, and let us see what you have in it.

To prove that I was willing to oblige them in every thing in my power, I unlocked my box, and laid all my clothes before them: but I had nothing fine to shew.

Well, said Mrs. Bennet, when she had examined all my gowns, I cannot but wonder that Mrs. Neale, who every body knows was of a very good family, should like a servant about her, dressed in such ordinary garments as these. Indeed, Susan, you would look much better, if you would dress a little smarter. I dare say the old lady gave you a little money before she died: now if you would spend a few shillings at *the next fair*, in buying a bit of ribbon for *your hat*, and a little trimming for *your*

and one or two lawn aprons; you cut a much more creditable figure than I do. I look a vast deal better in every respect than I do. I said, if you choose to treat me with this finery, I will not refuse to wear it. But that is quite out of the question. I have said she; I have nothing but what I can do, and it is not to be supposed that I have money to spend upon others. I know very well that you have money, if you please.

In answer for her, said Charlotte; see how she blushes! she cannot deny it. But what I say is this, that if she chooses to go out in such ordinary clothes, she must expect that people, who can cut a fine figure, will be seen with her.

Her patience was now almost gone; but how offensive every expression of

to go to bed, as I must rise early the next morning to my work. She then led me to a small room upstairs, which was within her own ; this she told me was to be mine. It had one window, which opened towards the hill behind the house ; and from hence I could hear the song of the little birds among the trees, and see the pretty flowers which grew beneath in the garden. This room was so small, that it would scarcely contain more than my little flock bed and the box which held my clothes : yet, nevertheless, it was a great comfort to me to have a place which I could call my own, to which I could retire, when I had a leisure hour, to read my bible, and think over my conduct.

But not to make my story too long, I must say in a few words, that for the two first years, my life with Mrs. Bennet was by no means so uncomfortable as I at first thought it would have been, for my mistress was seldom at home. As I could soon do most of the work she had to do within doors, she used often to go out to iron, and work in the genteel families in and about the town ; for there was scarcely any thing which she could not put her hand to. So that I had very little of her company, and of that light discourse which was so unpleasant to me. When she was at home, it is true, that she did not always treat me as

kindly as I had been accustomed to be treated by my dear Mrs. Neale and Mrs. Sarah. But we must not expect that every thing in this world of trial, will always pass on quietly and agreeably. She sometimes was very easy and free with me, as if I were her daughter, rather than her servant ; and then, without cause, she would become fretful and sullen, and it would be totally impossible to give her satisfaction. But I remembered well the words of St. Peter, and I trust was patient.

“ Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward

I never went to Ludlow but when she sent me on an errand, and kept out of all company whatever, as much as lay in my power: for I, alas, was alone in the world, and had no kind parents nor creditable relations to watch over me; God was my only friend, and I determined that I never would do any thing to offend this kind, most powerful, and merciful friend.

I saw very little of Charlotte Owen, although she came almost every Sunday evening to Mrs. Bennet's; and sometimes brought with her a young man, the son of a neighbour, with whom she was so foolish as to walk in the fields and lanes about the town. But I saw she was a vain girl, who feared not God, and whenever she was with my mistress, I shut myself up in my little room, and read my bible if I was not wanted below.

Charlotte, at first, laughed at me for loving to be so much alone, and asked me if I did not shut myself up to write love-letters; for her head was always full of these kind of foolish thoughts. But when she saw that I persisted in keeping out of her way, she would hardly speak to me when she came into the house.

I had now lived with Mrs. Bennet more than two years and a half, and was looking forward with hope, to the time when

which she had left me to get up. I remember that I was thinking of my father and mother, and Mrs. Neale, a happy time, when I hoped my soul would be taken from its mortal shell and would be carried by angels, with these good and most beloved friends, to the presence of God ;

When suddenly towards dusk, a woman appeared at the garden window coming up to the window before I was standing at my work, What, a Quaker ? she said.

I was surprised at the free manner in which she spoke ; but I answered her as she had always been equally kind to me, and I told her that I had been a Quaker, and that my mistress was at

does not look well to see young women walking in the fields so late.

Let us have none of your scruples, I pray, Susan, said she; you have lived with the old folks till you have got so starched and precise, that you are quite tiresome.

So saying, she went round to the door, and knocked very loudly at it till I unbolted it; for when I was alone, I always fastened it when night drew on.

When she came in, she took a chair beside my ironing board, and began to tell me of a very large merry-making and dancing at the Blue Bear Inn, at which she and her mother had been present the night before.

You cannot think, Susan, how merry we were; the room was so full we could scarcely move; and we heard such charming singing, and all the girls were so smart. I am sure you would have liked it: why don't you come more amongst us, and enjoy yourself a little? Here you shut yourself up, and mope, and are so dull.

Indeed, Charlotte, I said, I am so dull.

But don't you think, said Charlotte, that Mrs. Bennet would now and then let you go to a wake or a dance?

I dare say she would, I answered; but I *shall never ask* her leave: for to tell you *the truth*, Charlotte, I do not think the

modest women have any business at such merry-makings.

Lord bless me! and why not? cried Charlotte. Why, all the gentlefolks have their dances, and plays, and routs; and I do not see why we should not have them too. Do tell me where the harm of them lies?

I can scarcely tell you, Charlotte, I answered; for I never was at a dance, or a wake, or a fair, or a show in my life. But will you own to me whether you ever went to any of these places without hearing bad language, without meeting with bold or drunken men, who talk familiarly to you, who utter profane and wicked jests, and take God's name in vain? now do answer

either he will hate the one, and love the other: or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other: ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. vi. 24.

Charlotte made no answer; and for some time she sat quite silent. At last she said, Susan, when were you in town last?

The day before yesterday I fetched this linen from Mrs. Nichols, I answered.

Did you see the Captain then? she asked.

What Captain? I said; I know no Captain.

Why, have you not heard of the Captain who is just come to town? Where can you have lived this last fortnight? He is come to lodge at Mr. Smith's the mercer; and he is the finest, handsomest, freest, pleasantest gentleman I ever saw in my life. He seems to regard his money no more than the stones in the streets; and you cannot think how condescending and obliging he is. He smiles and is so gracious when one meets him any where, and speaks so kindly.

And speaks so kindly! I repeated. Oh! Charlotte, what business could a gentleman, a stranger too, have to speak to a poor girl in your situation?

She coloured: a poor girl, indeed! she answered. I like that, Susan; a poor girl truly! I am no servant.

aps not, I answered; but you must
 hat the gentlefolks do not look upon
 their equal? nor will a gentleman
 ou as such. You may be assured,
 hen a gentleman speaks freely to a
 woman in your state of life, he means
 d.

says that the Captain spoke freely to
 ould wish to know? said Charlotte.
 you not say yourself, I asked, that
 iled, and spoke kindly when you
 n?

, and suppose he did, answered she;
 opose he should think me handsome,
 opose he should think of making me
 r, where would be the wonder?

Charlotte, said I, gentlemen are not
 y to raise up poor girls to be their
 Do you think, whatever they may

neighbours, we shall fall lower than we now are.

I am sure I don't want to raise myself, said Charlotte. I did nothing to make the Captain notice me: I was walking very quietly down the narrow lane from the town towards the meadows, when he first thought proper to speak to me; I am sure I did not speak first.

But perhaps you looked at him, I said.

Looked at him, truly; why, who would not look at so fine a gentleman? You cannot think how very handsome he is.

And do you think, Charlotte, said I, because you did not speak, that this gentleman could not find out what passed in your mind? When we are angry, do not our looks shew our displeasure, although we open not our mouths? You suffered your mind to be full of this stranger; you looked at him and admired him: and he no doubt discovered these your thoughts by your looks, although you supposed them hidden by your silence. If he, therefore, treated you with any freedom, it was your own fault; and you have as much reason to blame yourself, as if you had tempted him to do so by speaking boldly to him.

Upon my word, Susan, answered she, you take finely upon you indeed. Who made you ruler over me, that you should

dare to find fault with me at this rate? what, must I neither look nor speak? I suppose you would have me walk about with my eyes shut.

I beg your pardon, Charlotte, said I, if I have spoken harshly to you; but you were the friend of my early days, and although we have been but little together of late, yet I cannot but love you, and I wish, if possible, to convince you that you allow yourself in liberties, which you may think innocent, but for which I fear that you will be punished perhaps very severely after death. For although you are not so learned as the gentlefolks are, yet you have been taught to read your Bible; and it is your

broken this commandment of God, and unless you resolve to repent, and to think no more of these vain things, I fear that you will make yourself not only miserable in this world, but in that which is to come. For the holy apostle St. Paul says, "to be carnally minded is death." Rom. viii. 6.

Charlotte made no answer, but stared at me, as if instead of repeating the words of God, I had been saying some very foolish thing. And at that moment my mistress knocked at the door.

Charlotte ran to open it, very glad I believe to break off her discourse with me.

In came Mrs. Bennet with a large roll of fine Irish cloth under her arm, which she laid upon a small table; and throwing herself upon a chair beside it, Now, girls, said she. guess for whom I am going to make that set of shirts; look at the cloth first, see how fine and even it is, and tell me who you think it fit for.

Charlotte said she presumed it was for the squire of the next village, and I guessed the worthy Dean the Rector of our parish.

Mrs. Bennet laughed, and clapping her hand on the cloth, said, You are both mistaken; it is for a finer gentleman than either of these. Why, Charlotte, I wonder you cannot think of him, for I have a pretty shrewd guess that he is often upper

the time, cried Mary, --

Captain?

You have it now, said my mistress, with called me in to day as I was, and told me that the Captain had said to me. I wondered what he had to say to me; but it was nothing; he desired to have two or three more washed by next Sunday morning. Susan, you must set to work by this time, you have but three days to do it, I cannot help you. I am going now, and we must not disoblige our worlds.

Oh! Mrs. Bennet, said Charlotte, I will give me leave, I will come and help Susan; it would be a pleasure to work for so fine a gentleman. Thank you. Charlotte, said

say, "That the thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord." Prov. xv. 26.

Charlotte insisted upon helping me in my work; and as it was very late, Mrs. Bennet asked her to stop with her all night.

When I had finished my ironing, and had got them their suppers, I asked leave to go to bed, that I might hear no more of their wicked talk; and when I was alone in my little room, I knelt down and prayed to God always to remember me, and to save me from being corrupted by this evil world. And having sung the evening hymn, I laid me down in bed, and slept most pleasantly.

Early the next morning I began my work; and had done a great deal before Mrs. Bennet and Charlotte came down to breakfast.

As soon as breakfast was over, my mistress went out, and Charlotte and I sat down to work before the door. We were for some time silent; at length Charlotte throwing down her work, took out of her pocket a small pattern of flowered silk, which she shewed me, asking me how I liked it?

It is very pretty, said I.

Should you not like a gown of it?

No, I answered; I think that a silk gown would not become a poor servant.

Why, as you are a servant, it might not suit you; but I shall very soon have a gown of it, said she. Mrs. Hall, the pawnbroker.

and why not? said Charlotte
already given Mrs. Hall half
towards it, and I know that I
able to raise the guinea. But
say any thing about it, for my
to know at present.

Oh! Charlotte, said I, what
to do? in what way can you go
unknown to your mother? And
so mean and foolish as to cost
mother for the sake of a silk gown.

Lord bless me! why what is
now? why I shall shew my mother
as soon as I have got it; and
I paid for it out of the money
uncles, and aunts, and grand
given me, and which I shall say
And she will not ask many questions.
will be so pleased to see me so

Charlotte, I am very easy about that ; for I shall only do to her as she does to others, even to the very best of her friends. For not a day passes, to my knowledge, but she cheats some of her customers ; and as to telling lies, she minds them not the least when she can get a few pence by them.

But, said I, if she is so wicked as to deceive, and lie, and cheat, is that any reason that you should do the same ? Remember these words, my dear Charlotte, which are taken from the holy Bible : “ All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.” Rev. xxi. 8.

But I am resolved answered she, to have the gown, so you may spare your preaching ; only I beg you to say nothing about it.

Will you answer me one question, Charlotte, said I. How did you get that half guinea which you have already given for your gown ? I know that but last week you told Mrs. Bennet that you had spent all you had in the world on a new hat.

Oh ! I am not obliged to tell you that, said she laughing ; but all I will say is, that I got it where I hope to get more.

I begin to be much afraid for you, said I ; this love of fine clothes will one day or other end in some sad evil. Indeed my dear Charlotte, I beg you to think no more of *this silk gown* ; be assured that if you could

nave upon ourselves, little as
If we deny ourselves some
finery, or even some few com
may give a little to those who
want than ourselves, God w
tenfold : but if we greedily
spend all we can earn upon o
Lord, I fear, will say to us at
of judgment, " Depart from m
into everlasting fire, prepared
and his angels. For I was hun
gave me no meat ; I was thi
gave me no drink ; I was a stra
took me not in ; naked, and y
not ; sick and in prison, and y
not." Matt. xxv. 41, 42, 43.

I think as you do, Susan, sai
hat rich people ought to sp
their abundance

am obliged to work hard for what I have; but like the poor widow I think it my duty to give my mite to the poor. And I remember what St. Paul says to the man who has been a thief; "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" Eph. iv. 28. And I could repeat to you twenty other texts in the Bible, to exhort and command us to take pity on the poor, and to love our neighbours as well as ourselves; which we cannot be said to do, when we lay out all the money we can earn in decking ourselves forth, or pampering ourselves with delicate food.

You have a vast deal to say, Susan, said Charlotte: but I do not think, with all your fine talking, that I shall give up my silk gown.

Now, my dear Charlotte, said I, if you will promise to think no more of this silk gown, and will for a few years be content to wear humble garments, and to give of what you save to those who are in need, I think I can promise, that at the end of that time, you shall have a finer gown than any lady's in the kingdom; yes, a richer gown than any queen ever wore on a birth-night.

Charlotte smiled, and asked me what I meant?

you talking? I do not unde

And with this beautifi
you shall wear a crown c
as bright as the stars in th
my dear Charlotte, if you
less of this world with a
you will resist its temptati
to serve your God, you sh
the sun in the kingdom of
enjoy pleasures for ever
sence of God.

Oh! now I understand
lotte: you had quite puz
shining gown. It remind
silver lace upon the Cap
you have no notion ho
looked in it.

I believe that I surpris

have we poor girls to be talking and joking about a Captain? I heard too much of these jests, Charlotte, last night; and whatever you may think of me, I am resolved that I will hear none of them to-day.

She got up, and coming to the door of the house, stood leaning with her back against the post, laughing at me for some minutes; calling me more nice than wise, prudish, and squeamish, and what not.

But I made no answer, remembering that it is said, "the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves." 2 Tim. ii. 24, 25.

While she continued to laugh at me, two young men belonging to the town, came running through the wood down the side of the garden. As they passed by the house they saw Charlotte, and one of them called to her, the other went on to the town.

She no sooner heard his voice, than she ran to the wicket, and there stood talking and laughing with him till our dinner was ready.

As soon as dinner was over, she told me that she was tired of work, and wishing me a good day, took her leave.

I had finished two of the shirts, and washed them on Saturday evening, and on

Sunday morning, it being a fine sunny day, my mistress laid the shirts in a neat basket, and strewing them over with lavender, ordered me to take them to the Captain's. You will not have time, Susan, said she, to get back to the village church; therefore dress yourself before you go, and when you have delivered the linen, you may leave your basket at mercer Smith's, and go to church in town.

I accordingly dressed myself neatly, and taking the basket under my arm, was just going out at the garden-gate, when my mistress calling after me, said, Susan, you must ask to see the Captain himself, and deliver the linen to him; and if he asks you what he is to pay for the work, you must say, whatever his honour pleases; for you know we must not fix a price to so great a

the parlour door was opened, and the Captain came out. When I saw his honour I began to be frightened ; for he was indeed a very fine gentleman ; I looked upon the ground, and at first I could scarcely speak.

Young woman, said he, (I thought rather angrily) what did you want with me ?

I hope that your honour will pardon me, I said, but my mistress ordered me to bring this linen to you.

Hold up your head, young woman, said the gentleman ; I cannot hear what you say.

I raised my head, and repeated what I had said before : but I was very much frightened.

When he saw that I was frightened, he smiled and said very kindly, tell your mistress, my good young woman, that I am obliged to her for obeying my orders so exactly. You are her servant, I suppose ; pray what may your name be.

Susan Gray, I answered.

And where do you live ? he said.

In the cottage by the river-side, under the woody hill. I then made a courtsey, and was going away.

But he called me back, and asked me what he was to pay for the work.

I answered as I had been told, whatever your honour pleases.

He immediately offered me half-a-guinea. *He was surprised, and said, Oh ! sir, this is*

ch ; my mistress would not take ha

, said he, my good Susan, do yo
 ur mistress what you think she migh
 and keep the rest yourself.

no, no, sir, said I, refusing to take th
 ; I am only her servant, and have n
 o the profits of her work.

Captain looked very hard indeed a
 en he spoke these words ; and when
 ne, he said, your mistress is ver
 ny good Susan, in so honest a servan
 u must take the whole of this mone
 rself ; when I see your mistress I wi
 for the work.

ed, sir, I cannot take it ; I than
 onour for your generosity to a po
 t I assure you that I want for nothing
 ave no right to take money which
 t earned. So saying, I made anothe

forgiveness, and endeavored, during the remainder of the service, to think entirely of holy and heavenly things.

As I returned home, I again reflected on what had passed between myself and the gentleman, and questioned myself whether I had done any thing wrong or bold to make him so free with me. It was but a few days ago, I said to myself, that I blamed Charlotte Owen for allowing him to talk freely to her, and perhaps I have done the very thing for which I took her to task. As our Lord Jesus Christ said in his sermon, "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" Matt. vii. 3. If I therefore take upon me to find fault with others, it becomes me more particularly to be blameless in my own conduct.

Whilst I thought of these things, I came into a narrow lane which led from town to the meadows, in which our house stood. At the end of this lane was a stile, on each side of which grew some very tall trees, whose green boughs made a kind of bower over the head.

When I came in view of this stile, I saw a gentleman sitting upon it reading a letter; but I could not tell, because of the shade of the trees, who he was.

I would have gone back and taken another

way home, that I might not give him the trouble of rising to let me pass, but I supposed that my mistress would by this time be come from church, and would be in want of her dinner. So I walked on.

But when I came near the stile, I was much surprised to find that this gentleman was the Captain. He went on reading the letter, and never moved from his seat till I was come up close to him. I stood waiting for some moments; at last, I begged his honour's leave to pass.

The first time I spoke, he seemed not to hear me; and when I again asked him to give me leave to pass, he lifted up his eyes from the letter which he was reading, and without moving from his place, your servant Susan, he said; where may you be going, my good girl?

I am going home, sir, I said, and he

back, and was going to take the other way into the meadows, although it was above half a mile round. But he, jumping from the stile, followed me, and said something which I thought very impertinent. Upon which I said to him, if you forget, sir, that you are a gentleman, I shall forget also that I am a servant, and will tell you very plainly what I think of you.

And what do you think of me, little Susan; said he, laughing.

I think, sir, I answered, that you are a very wicked man: and although I may have no friend on earth to take my part, yet God Almighty will not suffer such behaviour as this to go unpunished.

So saying, I pushed hastily by him, and by means of running as fast as I could, was soon out of sight.

When I got home, I found the door locked and no one within. I soon opened the door with a key which I had of my own; and as my mistress did not return, I ate my dinner, and prepared to go to our little village church, where I prayed God to preserve me through every temptation, and finally to bring me to his heavenly kingdom.

I had not been returned from church above an hour, before my mistress came in with Charlotte Owen, and two or three more young women, and as many young men

with whom she had been taking a walk to a village some miles distant, where they had dined together at a public house.

Susan, said she, as soon as she entered, make the fire burn, and set on the tea-kettle, for we must have some tea as soon as possible, and set us a table and chairs at the door.

I did as I was ordered; but whilst I was getting tea ready within doors, I was shocked at the loud laughing and jesting of my mistress and her company.

The young men, who I found had drunk a few glasses of ale more than they were used to, were extremely free and bold in their manner, and I was very sorry to see that not only Charlotte and the other young women

Here, take this chair by me ; come, we are vastly merry.

I see you are merry, I said ; but I shall beg not to make one amongst you.

And why not ? they all cried at once.

Oh ! do not oblige me to say, I answered.

What, we are not good enough for you, I presume, said Charlotte.

None of these airs, Susan, said my mistress ; a fine lady in truth you are, with scarcely a rag to your back, or a shilling in your pocket, that you should turn up your nose thus at your betters. Sit you down this minute, added she, with a very naughty word.

William Ball at the same time took hold of my gown, and was going to pull me down into the chair by him ; when I struggling hard, escaped into the house, and leaving my mistress and her company to wait upon themselves, ran into my own little room ; where I shut the door, and throwing myself on my knees, prayed God to protect me. Oh ! my God, I cried, I am surrounded by snares and temptations ; deliver me I pray thee, from the evils which encompass me.

My mistress did not call me down until all the company were gone, except Charlotte Owen, who complained of a headache, and begged to stay all night at the cottage.

Susan, said Mrs. Bennet, as soon as I came down, any other mistress but myself would turn a servant out of doors, who had behaved as you have done ; but in consideration of your having always been an honest girl, I forgive you this once. I cannot say that I should pardon you so easily, if you were to shew any of these saucy airs again. Surely my friends are fit company for my servant !

I should think so in truth, said Charlotte, who was sitting in an arm-chair, leaning her head upon her hand.

I thanked my mistress for forgiving me ; and then turning to Charlotte, to prove that I was not in an ill humour, but that I had

out, And were you so rude, Susan, as not to take the money? Don't you know that it is the greatest affront a servant can put upon a gentleman, to refuse his money? Why the Captain will never forgive you! How could you, Susan, behave in such a manner?

I did not want the money, I answered.

Not want it, said my mistress: why you have not a handsome gown to your back. Every body says that you would be well-looking, if you dressed but smartly. But as it is, you are such a dowdy, such a country Joan, no one will look upon you. Is it not so, Charlotte?

Don't talk to her about it, said Charlotte; she can't help her poverty: those who knew her aunt, don't wonder at the figure she cuts—poor low creature? And as to the Captain, I am sure he never would offer her money: and if he did, I am sure she never would refuse it. Don't let her deceive you, Mrs. Bennet, with her fine stories.

Nay, I do not think the girl would tell a lie, answered my mistress: I always found her honest enough. But now do tell me, Susan, why did you not take the Captain's money?

Because, I said, although I am poor, yet I fear my God, and I will never take any money, but such as I can get in an honest

... thing for the Lord of a s
a poor man rich." Eccles. x.
not for what reason the Capt
the half-guinea; but I knew
no good reason, for I had
service, and stood not in need

Not stand in need of cha
mistress; that may be as y
be sure you have bread to eat
tainly want for many comfort
said before, you have not a d
your back: you have not one
been patched in half a dozen
since you came to me, you ha
new hat.

But I am very well content
I have, I answered. I rep
words in the sermon to-day,
heard them I was very glad t

and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." 1 Tim. vi. 6—9.

Now had I taken the Captain's money, I added, the next time I met him, if he had been rude to me, I should not have been able to have said what I did to him when I met him in the green lane: I should have remembered the half-guinea, and should have felt ashamed.

And suppose that I had the money, and were to buy a smart linen gown with it; do you think that I should look better, or handsomer, or genteeler than I do in this old one, which is always clean and well mended? Let us poor folks dress as we will, we never look like gentlefolks; and then I said, As a Christian woman, I am above wearing finery which is given me by bad persons with bad intentions.

For heaven's sake, Susan, say no more, said Charlotte, suddenly getting up; you take upon you most strangely, and most impertinently let me tell you, to call others to account: if a gentleman makes one a present, how do you know it is for a bad purpose? And let me tell you, that it is nothing but low spite and envy which makes you say, that let us poor folks wear what we will, we never look as gentlefolks do.

I did not know what had made Charlotte so very angry, till I looked and saw that she

thought that all I had said
money from gentlemen was m

I made her no answer, and
to think what a sad girl she wa
no longer doubt of her wick
continued to rail at me and
some time in very sad langua
said, Charlotte, I pray you to
I did not know that you had
from the Captain, and therefo
mean to offend you by what
now I have found out the trut
you to take no more from his
bold and a very bad man I fe
will one day or other have reas
sorry for having had any deali

She would not hear what I sa
so loudly and so violently, that

Whilst I was setting the tea-cups, she took up Charlotte Owen's new hat, which she had left the night before on a chair, and placing it on my head, she held up her hands and eyes, as if she was mightily astonished, and cried, is it possible ! I could not have thought that any head-dress could have made such a difference ! Why, Susan, you look as handsome as the queen of May in that hat ; I protest that I should hardly have known you again. You must, indeed you must, have such a hat as that. I do think, if you were to buy the silk and make it up yourself, it would not come to more than five shillings ; and you cannot think how very handsome you would look in it.

Whether I look handsome or not, I answered, I cannot afford to buy such a hat ; for I really have not the money to spare. My dear Mrs. Neale gave me three guineas when I came to you ; but I have now been with you nearly three years, and in that time my shoes have cost me a guinea, and with a little linen which I have bought, and a common stuff gown, and with a few shillings which I gave the last hard winter to our poor neighbour who was sick of the fever, I have not much more than half-a-guinea left, and this I shall want to buy a few necessities, if I should be so happy as to get a good place when my time is out with you

... I made it a free gift to you
she held out the money.

I was puzzled to think what
made her all at once so generous
never before offered me so much
I looked at the half-crown for
she held it towards me, and then
and at last I said, I thank you
your very kind offer; but if I
the money upon a hat, and the
half-crown of my own to it
leave not to take it.

She looked angry, and putting
immediately into her pocket,
upon her heel, and said something
which I could not hear.

I am afraid, I said, that you
me very ungrateful for not receiving
offer; but I am sure that I am not

ornaments. I could shew you many places in the Bible, where we are exhorted not to love the world, nor the things that are in the world. It becomes every one of us to dress decently, and with the utmost cleanliness; but surely, whatever the rich may think it right to do, it becomes not a poor servant to spend her little pittance on needless finery.

Certainly not, said my mistress; I would not have you spend all you have on a hat. But if you were a little better dressed, Susan, perhaps some young tradesman or farmer might be taken with you, for you are a good-looking girl, and might choose you for his wife. And do you think, child, that if you could get a good husband by spending a few extraordinary shillings, that the money would be thrown away? And then the wicked woman laughed; for indeed I must call her a wicked woman.

If God sees fit, I answered, that I should marry, in his due time he will provide me with a worthy husband. But this is at present no concern of mine; I trust in God, and leave him to do what he pleases with me. I will not be so bold as to take any measures to ensnare young men, or to please them with my fine dressing, or to put myself in their way. Besides, to tell you the truth, I have no notion of that kind of men who can be pleased with a young woman, and

yourself, Susan," said my mistress now, think better of it; here half crown again. Have you it towards buying the hat?

If you will give it to me towards shoes, or a coloured apron, I will, I said; and held out my hand.

No, no, said my mistress, that you shall have it, if you please, but for nothing else: for I was with something smarter on yesterday than that old fashioned black hat.

Ah! why, said I, should you care for these vanities? If for God's sake forbear trying to draw me after your own you should rejoice to be fond of the fine things of this world, than endeavour to fill my mind with thoughts of them.

things which were become so dear to me, I should pilfer you in a thousand little ways; nothing that you have in the house would be safe; but I should be changing your bread for a ribbon, your cheese for a bit of lace, a candle for a fine pin, a piece of soap for a pair of buckles, and I know not what; and then as it would be no use to shew my fine clothes to the owls and the bats, the the horses and the cows, whenever you were safe out of the way, instead of doing your work well, I should hurry it over in a slovenly manner, and fly off to town to shew myself at the fairs and markets; and instead of being a clean, diligent servant, as you have been once or twice so good as to call me, I should be an idle, slovenly, good-for-nothing, saucy hussey. So I will not, if you please, buy the hat; lest when I have got one fine thing, I should wish for another to wear with it, and so by degrees become a vain bad girl.

My mistress made no answer, for at that moment Charlotte Owen made her appearance; and they sat down together to breakfast.

After breakfast they both left the cottage; my mistress having given me a task to do, and told me she should not return till night.

I continued to work very hard all the day long, and had finished my task before sun-

When just as it was getting dusk, and the moon began to shew her face above the hills, I took a walk in the garden to enjoy the fresh air; it was a most pleasant evening, and the violets and other flowers of spring, filled the breeze with their most sweet smell. A nightingale was singing among the branches of the tree at the top of the hill, and her voice sounded so melodious in the cottage garden.

I walked up and down, I thought of the many snares and dangers to which the innocent persons are exposed, who have no other happiness to have good parents. I had no friend in the world; I was delivered to evil by those who surrounded me, whose duty it was to guard against me, seemed to take a pleasure in exposing me to danger. I feared much a

heart pure from evil thoughts, and vain wishes, and above all things, I besought him to preserve me from the snares and temptations, which evil persons might spread in my way.

Ah ! what does it signify, I said, as I looked up to the skies, all bright and sparkling with thousands and thousands of stars, whether I am happy or miserable, for the few short years which I am to spend in this world ! I am now young, it is true ; but when I am thrice my present age, I shall be an old woman, and must soon expect to lay me down in the grave. It will then be all one to me, whether I have been high or low, rich or poor, handsome or ugly ; but it will be of the greatest importance to me, whether I have been patient and gentle, whether I have served my God, loved my fellow-creatures, and prepared myself to dwell with angels and holy men.

O my dear father and mother ! and my beloved Mrs. Neale ! you are now happy in heaven, in the presence of your God and Saviour ; you are no longer poor weak human creatures, but immortal and glorious spirits ; all tears are wiped from your eyes, the Lord Jesus has changed your vile bodies, that they may be fashioned like his glorious body. Phil. iii. 20, 21. God Almighty grant, *added I, while the tears ran down my cheeks*

ing-hymn, as I had been used
night before I went to rest, when
my dear Mrs. Neale.

When I had finished the hymn
my head on my arm, and sat li
the sweet voice of the nightingal
sound of the wind amongst the t
sidering what a poor, forlorn, an
creature I should be, if there wer
and good God to take care of me
of a sudden, I saw a gentleman
garden gate and come towards m

It was nearly dusk, but when
near to me, I knew him to be the
Without waiting to think what I o
I started up from my seat, and ru
the house, was going to pull the
me, and to fasten it; but the gentl
too quick for

Pray, sir, pardon me, I said, making a low courtesy.

Is your mistress at home? I wished to see her.

No, sir, I said, she is not. But if you please she shall call upon you to-morrow morning at any hour you may fix.

No, he answered; what I have to say to her is of little consequence.

Then he added, looking very hard in my face, you have a very sweet voice, Susan, and sing most charmingly. Do you always when alone sing hymns? do you never sing any other than holy songs?

No, sir, I answered, I know no other.

By whom were you brought up? where do your parents live?

I have no father and mother, I said; but I thank God, although I am very poor, and have very few friends, that I was not neglected in my younger days, but was early taught my duty as a Christian.

He asked me many questions about the way in which I had been brought up; and when I had answered them, Sir, I said, will you pardon a poor servant, but as it is very late, might I ask you if you have any message which I could deliver to my mistress?

What, my little Susan, he said, you wish me to leave you; you perhaps think that *your mistress* would be displeased if she *found me here*.

Why, perhaps, sir, I answered, looking down upon the ground, for I was afraid of looking so fine a gentleman in the face, she might not be pleased, if she should happen to return whilst you were in the cottage.

Does she often go out, Susan? asked he.

Yes, Sir, very often, I answered.

Will you then let me come and see you some day, when you are sure that she will not return

I believe I looked very angry; for I felt very angry, and I said, sir, you mistake me very greatly if you suppose that I refuse to do what is wrong lest I should offend my mistress: no indeed, I do not only fear her displeasure, but I fear that God, whose eye

to their beauty more than the finest or gayest ornaments.

I listened to these things with so much pleasure, for I was glad to hear him talk so becoming a gentleman, that I forgot for some time to ask him again to deliver his message : at last, when I reminded him that it was late, and that it did not become me in my humble state, to enter into discourse with a gentleman :

My pretty Susan, he said, although you are in the low state of a servant, yet there are many ladies who might be proud to be like you ; nor is there any lady whom I have seen in all my travels, that I should prefer to you for a wife. Had I not a very severe father, who would refuse to give me one shilling if I were to marry without his leave, I would marry you, Susan, to-morrow, and think myself the happiest man in the world.

Oh ! sir, I said, how can you talk so to a poor servant ; surely it does not become you to degrade yourself, to deceive such an ignorant girl as myself.

I am not deceiving you, he said ; and was perhaps going on to say many more fine things, when I recollecting myself, said, Sir, I have listened to you too long ; you must go this moment. It is neither fit for you as a gentleman, nor for me as a servant, to talk any more on these subjects. I pray you, si

ve; but before he had passed through the park, he turned back again, and in a humble and polite manner, begged my pardon, if he had said or done any thing which might offend me. You take me for a bad man, I fear, he said, but I am not one for the future, you may trust that I will endeavour to give you, as I ought to behave to you, as I ought to behave to a virtuous and discreet a young woman. He had scarcely gone out in the mean time, when my mistress came in.

Did you meet any body in the park? I said I to her.

No, said she; who has been with you? Charlotte been here this evening?

I immediately told her who had paid her a visit; and repeated all that the gentleman had said. Scarcely had I done speaking, when my mistress came in.

leave, madam, I will never go to his lodgings more.

Not see him more! said my mistress; why you little fool, should you dislike to be a gentlewoman? Had you rather slave all your life and be a poor servant, than live at your ease, and be honoured and respected?

Why should I think, said I, that the Captain would marry me? did he not tell me but now that it was not in his power?

Oh! but if you would try to please him, said my naughty mistress, he would perhaps become so fond of you, that he would marry you in spite of his cross old father.

And can you advise me to tempt a son to disobey his father? said I, lifting up my eyes and hands. No, no, I said, I will neither tempt him to evil, nor shall he tempt me; I will never, if I can help it, see him more.

My mistress said no more on that subject that night, but the next evening, she ordered me to take some more of the linen which was just washed and finished, to the Captain's lodgings, and to ask for the money.

When I heard this command, I was like one thunderstruck: I stood for some moments silent; at last I said, pray pardon me, my good mistress, but I must for once refuse to obey you.

At your peril, said she; go this moment

or (and she said a very bad word) I turn you out of doors: go, and bring the money back with you.

To-morrow, I answered, endeavouring to speak gently, you will go to town early, and as the Captain is not in a very great hurry for the linen, it would then be time enough for you to take it, and ask for the money.

She called me some very bad names, and raising her hand, said, am I to fetch and carry at your command; Go you shall, or to bridewell you shall be sent.

I trembled, so that I was obliged to sit down, for I was unable to stand; but I made no answer.

Are you obstinate? do you refuse to obey me still? asked she, stooping down, and putting her face, flaming almost with rage, close to mine, will you not yield?

to be obedient to your mistress, you had best not look into it.

My Bible, I said, first teaches me to serve my heavenly master, and then my earthly one.

One would think, said she, becoming a little more gentle, that I had asked you to do some very wicked thing: who would suppose that all this grimace is because I ask you to carry a basket a couple of miles.

I would carry it fifty miles, said I, another way to please you; but indeed if I go to the Captain's house and ask to see him, I may expect any treatment that he pleases to offer me.

But said she, I want the money early to-morrow before I go to town. Farmer Jones will perhaps call for my rent, and I want about nine or ten shillings to make up the sum. You have about as much as that left I think; if you will lend it to me for a few days, I will excuse your going to the Captain's, and will pardon for once your ill conduct.

I immediately gladly fetched the money, not doubting but that I should be paid again, as I had more than once before lent her a few shillings, which I had received duly again; and she had every where the character of being an honest woman in point of money matters.

word from her; and it really set
her way of using me, that she would
run away from her.

The only comfortable time when
I was with her, was when she was from home.
Indeed did I truly enjoy the peace
of the house; then I could think of
things; and although I was quite
alone, had not one fellow creature to speak to,
I was not unhappy. But lest she
should come again to the cottage,
I walked out before the door, not
into the window; but I generally took my
walk in my own little room, where no one
could see me through the window; for
no friend, and no one to take care
of me, I thought, to be more
careful in my behaviour, than if

he rap at the kitchen window; but I thought it best to keep close, and mind my work, and to let no one in but my mistress.

One evening, I believe it was about a fortnight after the time that I had the dispute about carrying the Captain's linen to his lodgings, my mistress, who had been at work in town all day, sent a little girl to me about six in the evening, to tell me that she would be at home about nine, and that she would bring with her a friend, who was to stop and sleep with her that night; and she sent me her orders to make the house very neat, and to get the best of what there was for supper.

Accordingly as soon as the child had left me, I set every thing in order; and having made myself neat, I sat down about nine o'clock beside a bright fire which I had made: and whilst I waited for my mistress and her friend, I took the opportunity of reading a few chapters in my dear Mrs. Bale's Bible.

It was very near ten, and my mistress was not come; but I was so engaged with my Bible, that I did not think how the time went.

The part of the holy Scriptures which I was reading, was the account of the cruel day in which the wicked Jews treated the Lord of glory: how they mocked him and flouted him; how they reviled and

p the holy book, and sat
reat love of God for us poor cre
hen we had enslaved ourselves
y our sins, sent his only son to
y his precious blood from everla
nd torment ; and now very hun
glorious Lord Jesus Christ take
self the shape and form of a p
how many hardships and tria
dure ! as the holy prophet and
said of him, " He hath no form
liness, and when we shall see l
no beauty that we should desire
despised and rejected of men
sorrow, and acquainted with g
our faces from him ; he was c
we esteemed him not." Isaiah

" He made himself of no re
him the form of a

ourselves, striving who shall be first, and who shall be greatest.

Then I could not but think how great the mercy of God was, in bearing so long with us sinful and obstinate beings ; and I prayed that I might not be numbered among the wicked, but that God would send his Holy Spirit to strengthen me, and to make me fit to resist temptation ; that in the last day, I might be thought worthy to inherit eternal happiness, through the mercy of my blessed Saviour.

Just as I had finished this prayer, I heard a knock at the door : I immediately hastened to open it, thinking foolishly enough that it could be no other than my mistress.

But how surprised I was, when instead of Mrs. Bennet, in came the Captain. Yet I did not feel so much frightened as might be supposed, for the Lord God had heard my prayer, and at that moment gave me greater courage and greater power to resist temptation, than I should have had, had I trusted in my own strength.

As the Captain walked up to me, I stepped back, and said, Sir, if your business is with my mistress, she is not at home.

My business is not with her, Susan, he said, but with you ; and then he said some very fine things in my praise.

But I looked very gravely indeed at him.

went on to tell me how much
and many other false things.

Sir, said I, if you loved me
you do, or indeed if you had
me, which every one ought
fellow creature, you would not
pain and trouble which your
I am a poor girl without a
the favor of God, my good
dear and most valuable to me
to be seen here at this late
at any hour, my character
and I should then lose all
upon for an honest livelihood

Must I never see you, Sus
I thought that I was to be
for ever, I should never be

As to that, sir, said I, I do

him comes all pleasure, and we must know that he will not bestow them on people, who do not think it worth their while to obtain his favor.

He looked at me very hard when I spoke ; but did not attempt to move.

I beg and pray you, sir, said I, to go away. What will become of me, if my mistress should find you here.

Your mistress will not come yet, I am sure, he answered : and I have much to say to you : indeed, Susan, you must hear me, or I will leave the country, and never more visit it.

It would be better for us both if you would, I said.

He answered, that I was very cruel and hard-hearted.

But I will not repeat all the things he said : foolish discourse cannot be too soon forgotten. It was a very long while before I could persuade him to depart ; nor would he go till I was much frightened, that I began to shed tears, and till he had heard me more than once pray to God in a very solemn manner to protect me.

He then said to me, Susan, I will leave you ; but whatever you may say, I never can be happy again. In a few days I will go out of the country, and return to it no more. *I am not so bad a man as you think me to*

uld marry you—but—

ough you are so charming, yet he v
er forgive me for taking a wife fro
a condition.

He spoke all this in so earnest a mo
at I almost believed he did not me
ceive me. But I still persisted tha
ould go away. He begged very hard t
ould see him once more before he
udlow, but I said, I could not allow

So great a gentleman as you are, ou
ave nothing to say to one in my con

Will you sometimes think of me,
aid he, as he went towards the door
am far away in the wars and in
ands?

Sir, I replied, I ought not to think
ut sometimes I will pray God to bl
that you will des

threw myself on my knees before him, and prayed him for the sake of God to depart. He seemed to be touched by my grief; he begged my pardon for having caused me so much trouble, and at length left the house.

As soon as he was gone, I locked the door and bolted it, and then throwing myself on my knees, with my face on a chair, I thanked God for having delivered me from this evil, and enabled me to endure this temptation; then sitting down, I began to weep very bitterly indeed.

At last being come to myself, I wiped away my tears, and stirred the fire, thinking that my mistress would be coming every minute; but when I looked at the clock, and found that it was nearly twelve, I thought that something unexpected must have happened, to keep her in town all night. I would not however go to bed; indeed all alone as I was, I should have been afraid. I therefore sat down in my mistress's arm-chair, and throwing my apron over my head, I tried to sleep. But at first I trembled so, that I could take no rest, I could not help thinking of the Captain; and although he had been very wicked in coming to the cottage, yet I thought that he had done better than some persons would have done, in leaving it at my desire.

I recollected that he had said he was soon

ng to the wars, and felt sorry to th
t he should be in danger of being kil
n I thought that if I were a rich l
d he loved me, I would marry him,
to make him good ; which was a fo
ught, and I was afterwards very a
h myself for it.

It was past two o'clock when I fell asl
d I slept till six o'clock, waking
w and then as if something had fri
d me.

The striking of the clock then waked
e fire was almost out, and there wa
ht but what came through the cre
the door and window shutter. At fi
uld hardly tell where I was, or why ins
my bed, I was sleeping in a chair ;
en I recollected what had happened
t night, and how the Lord God had

never thought myself so desolate and friendless before; and this shocking idea came into my head, that my mistress had staid out on purpose the night before, to give the Captain time and opportunity to come to the cottage. Could I but be sure of this, I thought to myself, be the consequence what it might I would leave her, and endure any hardship rather than live with so bad a woman.

I had just got some sticks to make up the fire, and had put the kettle on for my mistress's breakfast, when I saw her coming up the path-way through the meadows.

You may be sure that I did not go to meet her, or seem as if I was glad to see her.

Good morning, Susan, said she, as she came into the house.

I was busied in taking the tea-cups and saucers from the shelf, and wiping them. I did not turn towards her when she spoke, and scarcely I believe made her any answer: for as you may suppose, thinking what I did of her, it was hard for me to be commonly civil to her.

She placed a bundle of linen which she had brought with her upon the dresser, and said in a very brisk tone, Well, Susan, how are you disposed for work this morning? these things must be done to-day.

I still scarcely made any answer, for I could hardly speak. The tears came into my eyes.

dress to see the

observed them, and thinking, per-
ed woman as she was, that by my
silence I had at last fallen into th
which she had laid for me, she came
to me with an exulting and malici
upon her face, such methinks as th
angel might have had when he had
our first mother to disobey the co
of God; and laying her hand
arm, bending forward at the sam
look in my face. Why, how no
said she, wast frightened, child,
left alone last night? could you
well by yourself? and then sh
aloud.

I turned to her with a look w
her start, and shaking her han
Wicked, abandoned wor
I do not

opened my eyes, and shewn me the dangers of my situation: henceforward, O my Father! I will trust only in thee, and confide no longer in wicked people, who can plan my destruction, and who would rejoice in my downfall.

And pray, Susan, said my mistress, who are these wicked people of whom you speak?

Those, I said, who could leave me last night.

She affected to be surprised, and said, Lord bless me! is all this uproar about my being kept out last night? Why, Susan, must I send to ask you leave, if by chance I am kept from home a night?

By what means did the Captain know, said I, that you were from home?

The Captain! said she, what of him?

Do you not know, said I, that he came here late last night? and I am well persuaded, knew that you was not at home.

Heaven is my witness, said the wicked woman, that this is the first I have heard of his being here.

Then she affected to be mightily angry with him: she called him many harsh names, and said, that although she had not been brought up so precisely and stiffly as I had, yet that she was as much above doing a bad action as I could be; and pretended to be greatly offended at my suspecting her. And

ning about it.

Susan, said she, I forgive you deration of your being upon the very honest and good girl. But in have used me very ill in thinking commit a crime, for which I should to lose my life.

During the rest of the day my was kinder to me than she had some time. In the evening whilst at work, Charlotte came in.

I had not seen her since she had such offence against what I said, receiving the Captain's money. As she came into the door, fixing her on me, So, so, a fine lady in truth Susan, said she, taking upon you to and argue with your neighbours, one for this and another for that.

rate, I said, indeed Charlotte, I do not understand you ; what have I done ?

What have you done ! said she, in a taunting way ; how innocent you look. And so you pretend not to know what you have done ; but this I will tell you, miss, your character is abroad, it is the town's talk ; some whom you have deceived with your fine grimaces and preachments, wonder at you ; but others say that they never thought the better of you for them.

My mistress began to laugh, and tapping Charlotte on the shoulder, said, Why, what now, my girl ? methinks you seem somewhat warm.

Warm, repeated she, turning to Mrs. Bennet, I warm ! what should make me so ? If Susan chooses to behave like a fool, it is no business of mine : only I think that those who can do as she has done, have no right to be lecturing and domineering over others.

On hearing this I smiled, for I could not guess what she was talking of.

You may laugh if you please, miss, said she ; but when you come to be out of place, you will find it no laughing matter. Then she called me by some very bad name, and said that no decent person would take in such a wretch as I had proved myself to be.

I began to be frightened, and said, For Heaven's sake, Charlotte, tell me, what have done.

nd of the lane, has seen him m
evening come over the stile into th
lows: aye, and has watched him
very house, and seen him tap at the
And last night, Susan, where was I
aid she, tauntingly, now I have
What have you now to say, miss
have you no Scripture text to q
There now cry and sigh, and look
you little hypocrite, now that all
ways are out.

Indeed I could not help crying
was thunderstruck, when I heard
things, and thought how very dif
might perhaps be, although I was
cent as a new-born babe, to clear
character.

What have you now to say, cried
letta

true; Susan is a good girl. I am sure I never saw any thing wrong in her when I was at home. Then you know I am out a good deal, and I cannot to be sure, every body must know, say what she might do when I am out late at night; nay, all night, as I was last night.

I got up from my chair, Heaven forgive me, quite in a fit of anger, and said to my mistress, Oh! you wicked woman, is this the way in which you defend the character of a poor friendless injured orphan? O my heavenly Father! I cried, throwing myself on my knees, protect me, I beseech thee, protect me, for thou art my only friend.

Charlotte looked at me as I knelt; and when I arose, she burst into a loud fit of laughter, and used some very rude and brutal language. My mistress seemed half afraid of joining with her; nay, she even begged her to spare me. But although her words condemned her, yet her eyes looked as if she rejoiced in seeing me thus disgracefully treated.

I had been so long used to ill language and cruel treatment, that I could bear much with patience; but indeed I now felt my heart very, very sad. I placed myself in a chair at some distance from the cruel Charlotte, and throwing my apron over my face, *sobbed most bitterly.*

true that the Captain had very often the cottage, when I did not know of that, as might be well supposed, his visits, particularly his having come the last night, when my mistress was here, be in town, had made even my best friends think very ill of me.

This the cruel girl took care to put in to me; and then thinking to make it still deeper, she said, Do not think that the Captain, for whom you have a good name, has any love for you—truly, don't trust to that. 'Tis likely that he should be steady to a poor girl; when he never for a week together true to the finest lady in the land. I will tell you, Susan, that there are many better men even in Ludlow than he has done.

anger against me was from this cause ; that since the naughty gentleman had become acquainted with me, he had taken less notice of her than he had done before.

When I found that this was the case, I wiped away my tears, and getting up and coming towards her, my dear Charlotte, said I, if we have either of us ever talked of the Captain, or being led by him to do any thing wrong, which however I hope is not so, let us repent and be sorry for our faults, and let us think of him no more, but turn our hearts to some better thing. Do not let us add to our faults by reproaching each other, and blazing each others follies abroad in the world.

O you little artful hussey, said she, what would you have it thought that I am a partner in your faults ? I think of the Captain ! I hate the Captain. I would rather marry a blind beggar out of the street than such a gentleman. But, thank Heaven, he is going out of the country ; he has given warning to leave his lodgings. He is going abroad to the wars, and may the first shot that is fired bring death to him.

Whilst she spoke these wicked words, my mistress looked towards me with so keen a look, that I could have thought she was searching into my very heart. But she could see nothing there, God be praised, but hatred

that we should meet no more.

But I will say no more, added Susan upon this subject. The hours of day draw fast to their close; I may have but a few days only in which to finish my story.

And so that I may not run too long in length, I will say in a few words of the next day when I went to do some errands in Ludlow, I found, alas! that I was regarded in the light I had formerly been. Some of the young men of the town eyed and looked after me as I passed, and thought lightly of me. Mrs. Feller's wife, told me plainly, that she would, she could not but believe I had been very inconsiderate; and Mr. the mantua-maker, who had promised me a place, told me that she could

worthy people denying her their notice and countenance upon a light suspicion.

I came home as you may suppose unusually sad and cast down. I had not a dry eye the whole day : sometimes I could scarcely help thinking that I was dealt too hardly by ; and once I was so foolish as to wish very earnestly that I were a rich lady to marry the Captain ; then I thought that I should be above the contempt and abuse of the world ; and if the Captain loved me as he said he did, I could make him very happy, and persuade him to be good. But this was a foolish wish, and had God Almighty granted it to me, I might perhaps in prosperity have forgotten to serve him, and as our blessed Lord says, " What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul ? " Matt. xvi. 26.

But I thank God that these foolish thoughts did not long employ my mind ; the following day was Sunday, and then I went twice to our little village church, and humbled myself before God, and prayed him to forgive my murmurings, and if not in this world, yet in that which is to come, to turn my sorrow into joy. Then I thought of how little signification it was what my fate might be in this world, nay I even thought that it was perhaps better for me that I should be afflicted ; for as the wise king Solomon

and contented ...
ied with great pleasure and delight
ninetieth psalm, which was sung by
pretty little children, who were put
ol and clothed by the squire's lady.
please, said Susan Gray, I will repeat
this psalm, if it is not quite fresh in
mind, that you may think what a fine
there is in it to all persons, who be-
high health and strength think that
hall live many years, and are full of
is thoughts what they shall eat, or what
hall drink, or wherewithal they shall
thod, for who knows what a day may
forth.

Thou turnest man, O Lord, to dust,
Of which he first was made ;
And when thou speak'st the word return,
'Tis instantly obeyed.

So teach us, Lord, the uncertain sum
 Of our short days to mind,
 That to true wisdom all our hearts
 May ever be inclined.

When I heard this psalm I was in as good health as I had ever been in my life, and being very young, death seemed far from me: yet since that time, I have never been able to serve my God in his holy house, and never now shall enter a church till I am carried thither in my coffin. Before a week was gone I was seized with that mortal sickness, which soon will cut me down and wither me away.

But to return to my story. When I got home in the evening, my mistress asked me if I would go with her to drink tea with a friend in town, and see some of the preparations for the fair which was to be the next day.

Alas! said I, what have I to do with visits and fairs? I who am now in such a sad disgrace among my friends?

Well but, said she, if you stay at home, people will say the Captain will be with you.

I cannot help that, said I; I shall shut the door and bar the windows when you are gone, and will remain in my own little room, nor will I see any one who comes.

She said a great deal, trying to persuade me to go with her; but I was steady, and *although it made her very angry, yet I would*

eight o'clock, I shall now

As soon as she was gone,
up in my own little room, an
foot of my bed, continued
evening reading my bible. A
dark, I shut my book and
what I had been reading, of t
ness which God has promise
for his sake, give up the
world. I remembered sto
dear Mrs. Neale had told
and women, who for the sal
and for the love which
Saviour who died for their
lives, some being burnt t
and others being killed by
submitting to be starved,
deep dungeons far from th
of the sun rather than

keep myself apart from those who would tempt me to sin.

Then I thanked my God for dealing thus kindly with me; for requiring so light a sacrifice from me, and for promising so exceeding great a reward to my poor endeavors.

My mistress did not come home; so about nine o'clock I went to bed and slept most sweetly; till at break of day I was awakened by the crowing of the cock, and by the bleating of the sheep upon the hills.

Having earnestly prayed and besought God's blessing upon me that day, I went down stairs and began my work. About noon I saw my mistress coming along the pathway from the town; she carried a large basket under her arm, and seemed from her way of walking to be in a great hurry.

When she came to the garden wicket, she called me several times with a loud voice to open the cottage door. As soon as she was in the house, she set down her basket in the midst of the kitchen, and standing for a few minutes to rest herself with her arms upon her sides.

Susan, said she, you must see and bestir yourself. Why this is the most unlucky thing that could have happened: I was engaged to assist my cousin at the Blue Bear, and have been obliged to leave every thing at sixes and sevens, and it has hurried me so,

She took out of it some of fine white bread, some of ham, and several bottles of wine, putting them on the dresser; She well look surprised, said she you think is coming to pay evening?

Indeed, I answered, I can see some very great person I should may judge by all these nice things you have brought with you.

A great person indeed, said she, well it was the last thing I thought of or expected,—I should think of visiting such a person as I am. You have heard me lived in my younger days with the widow lady who lives in the town of the town.

this evening, and that she thought of coming to drink tea at my cottage, and bringing with her her two neices. My lady will be with you by four o'clock, provided it is very fine weather; but mind, dame Bennet, added he, in his droll way, if there is one drop of rain, you must not look for us.

So Mr. Thomas rode out of the yard, and I came home, in spite of my cousin at the Blue Bear, who said she should be hurried to death to get her business done without me.

Although I had reason to think that my mistress had often before said the thing that was not true to me, yet I could not suppose that all this long story about my lady West and Mr. Thomas, the footman, was every word of it quite false, as it proved to be. I could not have thought that there could have breathed on earth so very bad a woman as I found my mistress to be very soon afterwards. I believed that my lady West and her neices really were coming to visit Mrs. Bennet: and I bestirred myself very much to get every thing in the nicest order for them.

I rubbed the tables and chairs as bright as a looking-glass, and dressed the mantle-piece and the shelves with primroses, and cowslips and violets, and such sweet flowers as I could gather in the garden and on the sunny bank above the house; and when I had put on the tea-kettle to boil, and placed my mistress's

my best white apron and
as I had finished dressing myself,
she came into my room, and seemed
in so good a humour that I could not
be very much pleased with her at the time
enough since I have been shocked to see
her wicked arts.

She praised me for looking neat : she knew
that I loved to be called neat; and said
I had been an excellent housewife of
clothes. She then took out of her pocket
a new pink ribbon, which she said her mother
had given her as a fairing.

But I am too old, Susan, added I
to wear pink ribbon ; and as you have
been a girl lately, I believe I must pro-
bably have made me sit down

It was four o'clock, and my lady West not being come, my mistress bade me go to the top of the garden, from whence I could see the road through which the coach must pass for nearly a mile. But I could see nothing on the road but a few asses eating thistles in the hedges: so I sat down upon the green bank to wait till the coach should appear.

I remember very well what passed in my mind whilst I continued to sit there alone. The evening was then very fine, although there were some very dark and angry clouds resting upon the tops of the Clee Hills, which are full in view of my mistress's garden.

The bells of the town were ringing most pleasantly, and the flowers filled the air with their sweet smell.

My mistress had told me whilst we were at dinner that she had seen the Captain with his soldiers march out of town early in the morning, that they had taken their leave of Ludlow never more to return; and that it was very true, as Charlotte Owen had said, that they were going to fight in some far distant country beyond the sea.

I thought with pleasure that my great trials as I hoped were at an end, that I should never more be liable to be tempted to turn aside from my duty by this naughty gentleman: yet, at the same time, I thought it was a very sad thing that he should go to the wars, and

There's no repentance in the grave
Nor pardon offered to the dead.
Just as a tree cut down that fell
To north or southward, there it lies
So man departs to heaven or hell,
Fix'd in the state wherein he dies.

Oh! how dreadful a thing is
that so many thousands of you
forget that they have immortal souls
and for the sake of a few momentary
sure lose millions and millions
happiness: but the time will come
when every man shall be rewarded
according to his works. Then will those
offended their God, be cast into
hell, where there shall be weeping
and gnashing of teeth: but the righteous
rewarded with an exceeding great
joy. Whilst such thoughts were passing

to think that she will not come ; and that will be very provoking after I have been at all this cost and trouble to get things ready for her.

Perhaps, said I, those very black clouds on the tops of the hills have frightened her; indeed I fear that we shall have a storm this evening, the air is so hot and sultry, and every thing is so calm and still. There is not the least wind to shake the leaves of the trees, and look how the cattle are all getting close together in that large field.

My mistress made no answer to this ; but giving me the nosegay which she had made, There, Susan, said she, let me see you wear these flowers this evening ; here let me fasten them for you in your bosom ; I have a particular mind that you should look well before my lady West ; for if she should take a fancy to you, I might perhaps persuade her to take you into her family as a kitchen girl ; and then although you will be forced to work, yet you will at least be kept from want, which I am sorry to say I fear you are in some danger of ; for I do not know how it is, the gentlefolks about here have got a strange opinion of your character. They will have it that you received the Captain here at night when I was from home : it is a sad, a very sad thing, when any slur is thrown upon a poor girl's character ; it is almost next to impossible for her to clear herself.

...my mistress, I hope
but I am sorry to say I do not
will find it so easy to get a girl
you go from me as you may think
sure I cannot afford to keep you
your time; winter will be coming
things are much dearer now than
came to housekeeping. Besides
not take you without a character
I cannot in conscience after
opened, give you one.

Not give me a character?
astonishment; why, my dear
have I done to lose your good
Whatever other people may think
know very well that I have
nothing to deserve an ill name
into your service.

I must own, said my mistress

upon my arm as I sat upon the grass, and the tears ran down my cheeks. My mistress having peeped over the garden-hedge, pretending to look for the coach, which I soon afterwards found she had not the least expectation of seeing, turned hastily round and went along the green path into the house.

After she was gone, I remained sitting alone on the grass, till the clouds rolled from the hill and covered the whole skies. The wind began to whistle in the woods, large drops of rain began to fall, and several distant claps of thunder were heard.

I then got up, and lifting up my eyes and hands to heaven, uttered a short prayer to God for mercy and protection: which having finished, I ran down the hill, and in a moment was at the door of the house.

The door was shut. I thought as I pulled up the latch, that I heard some voices within: but, oh! think what was my surprise, when on opening the door, I saw the Captain talking with my mistress—the Captain, who I then thought was far away from Ludlow, and whom I never, never more expected to see. Surely at that moment I foresaw the ills that were about to befall me; for my heart seemed as it were to sink within me, and I dropped upon a chair which stood just beside the threshold, without having power to speak, *say scarcely to move.*

seeing you once again.
turn away your face? are
am returned? are you an
live without you?

The tears ran down my
no answer.

What will you not speak
not look at me? (said the wi
and yet after having rode in
the town, I returned to se
Susan; for indeed, indeed,
God to witness the shock
you will not take pity on me
and into my heart.

I would have spoken, but
voice. My mistress came
chair, and bending her head
Come, come, my dear S
Catherine.



knees before me, and prayed me to have pity on him. Those were the words he used.

Have pity on you! repeated I, wiping away my tears and checking my sobs; you ask for pity, yet will not bestow it on others. Oh! rise, for heaven's sake, rise; and do not demean yourself by kneeling to a poor servant. Oh! that you would grant me the pity you seem so humbly to ask. When you first knew me, I had but few friends indeed; but now, oh! my God! I have not one on earth. I had then a fair and spotless reputation—in what light am I now thought of!

So great was my anguish and grief of heart when I spoke these words, that had not my mistress, who stood by me, caught me suddenly in her arms, I should have dropped from my chair.

The Captain seeing me look very pale, was perhaps frightened; for immediately he rose from his knees, and to give me air opened the door of the house, which my mistress had shut to keep out the rain which now beat in very fast.

My mistress gave me a cup of water, and I very soon began to revive, and to recover from the fright into which seeing the Captain so unexpectedly, when I believed him to be so far away, had thrown me. The Captain seeing me better, was going perhaps to make me excuse for having caused me so much

“you —
tea with us? Susan will be proud
of you; and very luckily I have
in the house such fare as I
need not be ashamed of offering
to a gentleman.”

So saying she placed a chair for
him, and began to busy herself in
the parlour.

The Captain sat down on the chair
she had offered him? but never did
he look so sad as he did; he leaned
upon his arm, and for a long time
did not raise his eyes from the ground.
I should have wondered to have
seen such sadness, and thought it strange
in a man so great and gay a gentleman
as he was, had I not remembered what
Mrs. Neale had often told me, that

for I had not as yet moved from my chair; and bidding me wipe away my tears, which still in spite of all I could do, continued to run down my cheeks, she placed a waiter in my hand, and ordered me to carry the tea to the Captain, giving me a look at the same time, as a signal to cheer up and not look so downcast.

I trembled so, that I thought I should have dropped the waiter; and when I offered the tea to the Captain, which I did, making a courtesy at the same time, the tears again came into my eyes and ran down my cheeks.

He lifted his eyes from the ground and looked up to me with such a look of bitter grief as I never saw before: I offered him the tea: he took the waiter from me, and placing it on the table, suddenly seized hold of both my hands and said, Susan, my dear Susan, I love you, and I think that you love me; why should not we live together? I will marry you, I am resolved I will, in spite of my father, in spite of all the world.

Then he swore, and called his Maker to witness to the truth of all he said.

Oh! most honoured sir, said Susan Gray, what will you think of me when I tell you that I did not try to get away from the Captain, but that I listened to him for a long while. I forgot at that time to pray to God for his help, and without God's assistance

pray that ye enter not into it,
spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh
Matt. xxvi. 41.

I hearkened to the Captain when he
me how greatly he loved me,
me to go with him to London, with
that I should become his wife: I
loved him he told me into far distant
and when he was wounded in battle
nurse him and comfort him;
which he promised to love me,
leave me.

Oh! I tremble when I think
near I was falling into the snare
laid for me. Oh! my God, now
can I shew my love and gratitude
for having saved me from sin,
evils is far, far the worst!

And the Captain continued

tempests in the hot countries, in which houses are thrown to the ground, and trees torn up by the fierce winds; and he seemed to pay little regard to the thunder and the lightnings. But I began to be very much frightened by them; nay, I could almost have thought that they were sent by a kind Providence to alarm me, and bring me to a sense of my duty: for as it were all at once I awakened as from a dream; I recollected how wrong it was in me to listen to the flattering and deceitful words of the Captain. I thought of the God who made me, and the Saviour who died for me, and struggling very hard I tried to get my hands free. But when the gentleman would not let me go, I fell down on my knees before him, and prayed him for the sake of God to think no more of me; but to leave me to gain my livelihood in an innocent and honest way, and to serve my maker in that humble state in which he had been pleased to place me.

He looked at me I thought with pity, and I pleaded so hard with him, that he would I verily believe have left me, and have thought no more of his wicked purposes, had not my mistress said to him in a reproaching and taunting way, What, will you now give her up when you have almost succeeded? I see that her heart relents, and she will I am sure *go with you.*

wicked
persuade me to go with him

Oh ! how many shocking
how many deceitful promises
doubt not but that I should
been deceived, and should
suaded to have given up all
lasting happiness in a world
few years, nay, perhaps for
of wicked pleasure in this
granted me his help. I
my dear Mrs. Neale had of
human beings are so weak,
so unable to endure hard
who hope to pass in inno
life, must fly temptation, and
and confidently think they
withstand it.

I thought of this, and

account of your conduct towards me. You seem both resolved on my ruin, and I, alas ! have no protector but my God. But, added I, before you proceed in your wicked purposes, I pray you reflect a little: remember that you cannot recal an evil action; innocence when once lost, can never, never be restored.

I do not remember what was my mistress's answer: but the Captain repeated many of the wicked vows and promises he had made before, and swore that he would never leave the cottage until I would go with him.

To this I made no reply but remained silent, thinking of the plan which I had in my head. In the mean while, my mistress coming up close to me, and laying her hand upon my shoulder, painted to me in very strong colours what would be my situation if I refused to go with the Captain; how that my reputation was now alas! quite gone; that when I left her service, no one would take me in; that I was not strong enough for hard labour without doors; and that I should be condemned to idleness, shame, and beggary.

The Captain then described to me the happy life I should lead with him; the ease in which I should live; the rich ornaments *with which* I should be decked; the fine

Captain. ~~and~~

if I refuse to go with the Captain, I shall be exposed to shame, and want of maintenance. . . But I remembered our blessed Saviour, "Thou shalt not leave a man or a woman, hath left house, or parents, or wife, or children, for the Kingdom of Heaven's sake, who shall not receive in this present time, and in the life everlasting." Luke xviii.

And I said to them while my tears, I beseech you suffer me a few moments only to my private grief, that I may when alone think of what the Captain has said to me, and consider what I must do: For indeed, I said, I was very much bewildered, and very greatly distressed.

They were both at first surprised: nay, my mistress

of my room was so small, that I should have thought it impossible at any other time to have got through it; but I was now resolved, be the consequence what it would, to make the trial, particularly after what my mistress had said.

As soon as I was alone, I spread a handkerchief upon the bed; and having placed on it my bible and prayer-book, and what little linen I could hastily get together, I tied up the corners of the handkerchief, and threw it from the window into the garden. The dim twilight, for night now came on very fast, hardly gave me light to see what I did.

Then without waiting to put on hat or cloak, without regarding the rain or the wind, or the lightning which flashed again and again in my face, I climbed by means of my box into the window, and with some difficulty got out upon the thatch. Now the roof of the house sloped down to the hill-side, so it was not far for me to jump into the garden; and then I was as active and as brisk as a bee, although I am now so poor and feeble a creature. So truly does the holy prophet say, "All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it. *Isaiah xl. 6, 7.*

scarcely even see the cottage
account of the very heavy rain w
then falling.

Now being a little recovered,
climb the hedge, but the grou
very slippery by reason of th
slipped back several times; and w
at last got over it, I found that t
deep ditch on the other side run
with water. / I found some di
crossing this, and then without
seek for a path, I struck into t
of the wood: for just at that
fancied that I heard a voice.

As I went on through the wood
by briers and brambles; and
worse, after much pain and c
found when I had made my w
the trees that I was still very

on me, that I found it difficult to go on. It was now become quite dark too, the lightning only now and then giving me a momentary view of my path.

As I came nearer the barn I heard voices, and soon saw a light through the crevices of the door. I went silently up to the door, and looking in, I saw a party of gipsies, whom I had heard infested those parts, gathered together round a few embers; and whilst they ate their last meal, they amused themselves with singing.

I knew that these were no companions for me; I therefore with a sad heart turned from the barn, and at length with great difficulty found my way into a long green lane, out of which I knew very well that there was a turning which led to Ludlow. I thought that if I could reach the town without being discovered, that I might find some secure lodging for the night; and I felt no doubt but that God Almighty would provide for my future safety. For these words of St. Peter came into my mind, "If ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye, and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled." 1 Peter iii. 14

But the lane being shaded by tall trees, and the night becoming darker and darker, the rain having by no means ceased, I missed the turning which led to the town.

gan almost to sink within me, being quite drenched with water around me, and made it very difficult for me to walk; and the lightning flashed often in my face, and the thunder which rolled over my head, made me shudder; and I had almost resolved to lie down on the wet ground, and give up to my hard lot, when I saw a glimmer of light. It came from a cottage which stood close by the way side. I made up my way up to this cottage, intending to beg shelter; but as I walked towards the window, I looked up and saw two men sitting before a large fire. A table stood by their side covered with food and tobacco-pipes, and an old woman knitting in the chimney corner, remembered often to have seen

spent I sat me down on the trunk of a tree, which was fallen by the way-side; and very, very sad indeed were my thoughts. Yet in this hour of deep anguish, God Almighty was my comforter: I remembered these words of the holy David: "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me: thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Psalm xxii. 4, 5. And I felt at that moment a most delightful assurance that my God was well pleased with my humble efforts to serve him, and that my poor sacrifice was accepted with my Maker. Forlorn and desolate as I then was, without a friend on earth, and not having a place whereon to lay my head, yet I would not then have taken the place of the most prosperous wicked person.

Whilst I was thinking of these things, it pleased God that the rain and the thunder should abate: and soon the clouds rolled away, and the full round moon was seen in the heavens. This was a great comfort to me, for which I failed not to thank my God. And now being somewhat rested, I arose and walked on, till at the end of about two more miles, I saw at a short distance a church upon a hill: I could just see the *taper spire rising* above some small trees.

house by my
six years old, I had but a very fair
brance of it.

I was glad however to see th
and I walked on towards it till
the entrance of the village. / I k
the first house I came to, this may
be a lodging-house, and the go
not being gone to bed, although
after midnight, she very kindly t
Very kindly indeed; for the fig
was by no means a very creditab
I had neither hat nor cloak, my
handkerchiet were torn by the
brambles in the wood through w
passed; all my clothes were sti
with wet, and my eyes were
swelled with crying.

Whilst the good woman to

would not blame me for what may now seem very strange to you. Then I began to weep afresh.

The woman answered, that she hoped what I said was true for my own sake : then seeing that I was quite spent with grief, and with the great labour which I had gone through, she took me into a small room, where I was very thankful to lay me down on a straw bed.

Being greatly tired I very soon fell asleep; but I had many uneasy dreams, and awoke by dawn of day crying as if my heart would break.

I looked about me, and for some time could not call to mind where I was. But when I remembered all that had passed the day before, and thought of my unhappy situation, in a strange place, without friends, without money, for I had lent all that I had left to my mistress; and not knowing what would become of me, or how I should be able to earn my bread, I really thought that my bitter anguish and grief of heart would have put an end to my life. But I called to mind these words: "What glory is it, if when ye be buffeted for your faults ye shall take it patiently? but if when ye do well and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." 1 Peter ii. 20.

And O my God! I said, I will with thy

MORTALS !

Then I arose from my bed, dressed myself, I took from my dear Mrs Neale's Bible, an account of the sufferings and blessed Saviour, and also the holy martyr Stephen, who was death, and of other prophets and who had endured very great pains, and had laid down their lives for the sake of their God.

And when I had read these things, I thought no more of my own light afflictions; that is, I felt no more disposed to complain and murmur at them, although all I could do, I could not shake off the sorrow which sat heavy upon me, and what perhaps made me less so, was that from being so long

found the family at breakfast. The mistress of the house seeing me look ill, offered me a dish of tea which I did not refuse, although I would not eat any of her bread, which she would fain have had me take. I shall remember her kindness to my dying day, and never will in my prayers forget to ask God's blessing for her; any other return I cannot make her.

After breakfast I sat down on a bench in the chimney corner; for although the weather was very warm, yet I shivered with cold like one in a fit of the ague.

My landlady seemed to be very sorry for me and asked me if I had long been ill? I answered, as I then believed, that I had only a slight cold, and hoped soon to be better. I thanked her for her kindness, and asked her, whether she would let me continue to lodge in her house, if I could get any work in the parish.

She said that she liked my way of speaking, and my manners better than my appearance; that my coming to her as I had done through the storm the last night without hat or cloak had to be sure a strange look, but that she had seen nothing amiss in my behaviour.

I hope the time will soon come, said I, when I shall be able to clear all this up to you, and to prove to you that I am no bad

I then inquired if it would be possible to get any work in the village.

She asked me if I had been used to doors work.

I said that I had not; but that I would be thankful to be put in any house doing my bread.

You do not look as though you are used to hard labour, she said.

I answered, we know not what we shall find till we have tried.

You seem very willing to do any work, she replied. I am going this morning to carry this woollen which I have from the farmer Flemming's: the farmer begins his harvest to-morrow; perhaps he will have no objection to another hand. Then she gave me my name.

now getting old, and has been overseer of the poor these twenty years past.

When I heard this, and found that I had taken shelter in my affliction in my native village, I felt my heart, I know not wherefore, strangely touched, insomuch that I could not help shedding fresh tears. I thanked my landlady for her kind offer of getting me employment from farmer Flemming, and for consenting that I should continue to lodge in her house.

Towards mid-day I found myself much better and was able to employ myself in mending the rents which I had got in my clothes. In the evening however I was almost spent for want of food; for I would not take any which my good hostess offered me, she having a large family of children who entirely depended on her for bread. I accordingly went into my own room to examine my bundle of linen, thinking that I might perhaps exchange some part of it for a loaf of bread at the baker's shop which was just opposite. When I found unexpectedly wrapped up in an old handkerchief among other little things, which had been bestowed on me in my childhood by way of rewards for good behaviour, a new sixpence, which Mrs. Sarah had given me for telling the truth, when I had broken a fine china cup of my dear Mrs. Neale.

Then having borrowed an old s
of one of my hostess's daughters, I
the baker's shop, and having laid ou
ny on a roll, which I ate with than
to God, I walked through the
towards the church, with the inten
the grave of my dear father and
who were buried, as you may know
der the large yew-tree on the sout
the church-yard.

As I walked along the village
called to mind a thousand things w
happened in my early days. I rem
them only as one remembers a dre
faintly and very obscurely. I crosse
at the end of the village, and took
up the hill to the church by your h
I saw you walking in your gar
in your hand and I k

and to make myself known to you. But before I could get courage to speak, you turned into the house without looking towards me.

Then with a sad heart I left the gate, and began to climb the hill. As I went along, I gathered in my apron a few primroses, cowslips and other pretty flowers, to scatter over my beloved father and mother's graves, if I should be able to find the spot where their dear remains were laid in peace.

When I got within the church-yard, I was obliged to sit down on a tomb-stone to rest myself, for I was become so weak, that I was quite spent with the walk. My heart beat, and a pain in my side, which I had never felt before, was so violent, that it almost took away my breath.

I soon however became better, and I got up and walked round the church, till coming to the great yew-tree, I saw under it two graves side by side, at the foot of which was a stone, on which I read the names of James and Mary Gray.

I scattered the flowers which I had gathered, upon the graves; yet although I had of late wept so much, I did not then shed one tear. I stood with my eyes fixed upon the grave-stone for a very long-while; and in that time I thought over all the strange things which had befallen me since the time

the same -
mother, and when my soul, the
merits of my blessed Saviour, made
to him that made it.

Whilst I remained in the church
sun set and the darkness of night
The bats with their leathern wings
about me, and the owl screamed
church tower. Then calling to
if I should stay out late, my hope
perhaps have reason to think soon
I walked slowly and sadly towards

When I returned to my local
landlady told me that she had
to go the next day to farmer Fl
make hay. You must be there by
said she, and your work will not
till late; but, added she, look
me, you do not seem fit for it

ink it. And then advised me to go to bed, that I might be the better fit for next day's labour.

That night, I thank my God, I enjoyed much sweet rest, although I had many dreams. I remember one in particular, which I have since often thought of with much pleasure. I fancied that I was lying on my bed very ill indeed, nay almost about to die; and I thought that my dear father and mother came into the room, and stood one on each side of my bed; and my mother said, this is our beloved Susan, this is the child

whom we glory; "her light affliction which is but for a moment shall work for an exceeding and an eternal weight of glory."

Cor. iv. 17. This was a sweet dream, and is surely sent by God as a comfort to me.

The next morning by break of day, I prepared myself for my new employment. I felt somewhat better than I had done the night before; and the day being fine and bright, I was tolerably cheerful as I took my way to the farmer's.

When I came to the house I found the yard full of men, women, and children, with their forks and rakes in their hands ready to go out for the hay-field. They stared at me when I came into the yard but said not a word.

any more

Oh the young woman, said she in voice, whom Nanny Jones was : But methinks you do not look hard work. She then called to him who was sitting within by the fire to tell him that James Gray's daughter come.

Hearing this he came out, in coat, and with a woollen nightgown, and ordered one of the boys to bring him a rake. Then looking at me earnestly for some time, How come you a woman, said he, that you have been from your service? I fear that you have not been so good a girl as you should have been. My nephew, William Ball, has been your tricks before now; but it comes of girls when they get

farmer, that you, who are come of such honest parents, might be ashamed of having done as you have done. Your father and mother were as good people as any in the parish, and if it had not been for the respect I had for them, you should never have worked for me.

So saying he turned into the house, and my new mistress bade me follow the other hay-makers out of the yard.

Oh! with what a sorrowful heart did I walk slowly after the rest, till we came into a wide field which is skirted on one side by that large wood now in our view, and is bordered on the other by the brook which runs into the river by the mill.

My companions had heard what the farmer and his wife had said to me, and I soon found what they thought of me, for the old women looked very sour at me, and the young ones laughed and whispered, glancing slyly at the same time at me.

But what grieved me most was that the the young men spoke to me as if they thought lightly of me. I however went on with my work, keeping close with the rest of the women, and saying very little.

Towards mid-day I became very weary with my work; my knees trembled, and I had a constant pain in my side. *However I continued my work till evening.*

and as I behaved with modesty, not evil speaking for evil speaking companions the hay-makers began to be better of me. The women in the neighbourhood treated me with more kindness: however that the young men still thought lightly of me.

The weather being very hot, I was ready to carry by Friday.

I was worse this day than I had been before, yet I strove to keep up my work.

I was making up the hay into cocks, with two or three more yokes at the lower end of the meadow. Young men came with the waggon to the gate which is at the top of the meadow. Amongst these was William Ball, nephew of the young man of whom I

men who had gone there to the fair, of the disgrace I had fallen into on account of the Captain. And it was a new pleasure to him to be told by his uncle, when he came home, that I had run away from my service, and had come to him for work.

So soon as he came to that part of the field where I was, he called out to me from the waggon where he was loading the hay.

Well, Mrs. Susan, and how did you leave the Captain? or, to speak more properly, how did the Captain leave you? For they tell me in Ludlow, that he is gone out of the country, and taken with him by way of company, Charlotte Owen, the huckster's daughter. Then he laughed aloud.

I was like one thunder-struck when I heard these words: my rake fell from my hand, and my eyes were filled immediately with tears when I thought of the wickedness of Charlotte and the Captain, and of the dreadful evil which I had escaped.

I will not repeat all the foolish jokes of William Ball, when he saw my grief and distress. Indeed I paid but little heed to what he said. At length one of the old women told him that he might be ashamed of himself for making a jest of what did not seem to her any jesting matter? that with respect to me, she had seen no harm by me

gone off with her. . .
 that there was to laugh at in a poor
 s running soul and body into ruin
 ery
 er thought well of that Charlotte
 aid a grave elderly man, the farmer's
 ervant, who was just come into the
 ith the dinner for the labourers ;
 d ever comes of a girl who is always
 g herself and her fine clothes in the
 . nodding and courteseying, and laugh-
 every young fellow who chances to ge
 have seen enough of her when I have
 n town on a market day.
 is it true, said I, that she is gone wit
 aptain ?
 e, true enough, answered William : s
 good girl, wipe away your tears, an
 no more of the Captain ; for I prom
 Mrs. Oke

Why you know, answered William Bull, that the Captain and his men marched out of town on Monday morning, and about the middle of the day on Monday, Charlotte was missing. But as she often went from home without saying any thing to her mother, Mrs. Owen thought nothing of it till night came on, and that dreadful storm of thunder and lightning; then the old lady began to be a little frightened, and she sent to all her neighbours, but could hear nothing of her daughter. And it was but yesterday that she was told that Miss had marched after the Captain; although some folk do not scruple to say that his honour could well have dispensed with her company. Then he laughed again, and almost all the young men, and some of the young women, joined in his mirth.

But the old servant shook his head, and turning to a woman who stood by him, he said, I do not quite relish all this jesting; none but fools, as the scripture say, would mock at sin. Prov xiv 9.

Very true, replied the woman: for my part I do not feel much disposed to laugh. I cannot help feeling very sorry for the poor mother of that bold hussey.

Why as to that, returned the old man, one is very sorry for any one who is inconsiderate, and lays up for himself stores of misery

But Mrs. Owen may thank herself for what has happened. Why did she train up her child to the love of finery and vanity? Why did she wish to make a smart lady of her, instead of a modest, unassuming, decent girl? Why did she herself practise lying and deceiving before her; and neglect her duty to God, spending the sabbath in idleness, feasting, and gossiping? As the wise man says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. xxii. 6.

We all then sat down upon the grass to our dinner, and I heard no more of this discourse at that time. But what I had already heard had quite spoiled my appetite, and the shocking wickedness of Charlotte and the Captain still dwelt very heavily on my heart.

Alas! alas! I thought what will be the end of all these crimes.



I felt increasing pain during that night, and my few hours of sleep were disturbed by unpleasant dreams concerning what I had heard that day in the hay-field.

The night was rainy. Mrs. Flemming had told me the evening before, that as her husband would have no more work for me till Monday, she would employ me in weeding a garden which was at some distance from the house by the water-side.

She had given me a basket, and a small weeding knife; and having directed me which way to go to the garden, bade me be there betimes in the morning.

Now this garden was no other than that which was formerly tenanted by my dear father: when he died farmer Flemming had taken it, and the house being a very old one had never been inhabited since my beloved parents had quitted it. It was now all fallen to ruins, and was only used as a place for seeds and gardening tools.

When I reached the garden the rain had ceased; but the ground was very damp, and a very thick fog arose from the river, inso-much that I could scarcely see the willows which grow by the water-side. It went to my heart to see the cottage which I so well remembered, and so dearly loved, gone almost to ruins. There was no glass in the windows; the roof was open in many

places, and one of the chimneys had fallen in.

Many sad thoughts passed in my mind as kneeling on the damp ground I weeded the strawberry-bed, just beneath the cottage-wall, and tied up the rose bushes and honeysuckles in the little plot of ground from which my mother used to gather nosegays on a Sunday morning, to dress the chimney-piece and the kitchen window.

About mid-day the sun began to appear through the fog: but although it shone upon me it could not warm me, for all my limbs were cold, and trembled with a mortal sickness.

At length I became quite spent, and was forced to desist from my work. I then reflected that my labour was not worth my wages, and it seemed to me that I did wrong in receiving from the farmer the hire of a

blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines : the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat, the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall ; yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

So I took up my basket and my weeding knife, with the intent to go back to the village. But when I arose from my knees, I found it difficult to stand ; and I was forced to sit down upon the stone step before the house door to recover myself a little. Here I had sat many times when I was a child, and amused myself with shells and stones, and other such trifles as children love, whilst my dear father and mother were busied in working in the garden. And here I called to mind a thousand little events long time forgotten. I remembered how my dear mother used often to leave her work to look after her little Susan ; how sweetly she used to smile when she saw me coming towards her ; and how anxiously she watched me, if by chance I ran with heedless steps by the side of the river. I remembered the wood-strawberries strung like threads of beads upon a blade of long grass, the acorn cups, and the blackberries, which my father used to give me when at evening he returned home from market through the wood which is beside our garden.

to your untimely graves.

Then I lifted up my eyes and had in gratitude for his goodness to me assisted me to endure the hard trials with which I have been tried.

Whilst I was still thinking of this a sudden faintness came over me, for some time without sense. At length I recovered: yet I had very much difficulty to get home to my lodging, immediately laid myself on my bed.

Nor did I leave my bed, till you visited me; and till by your great kindness my health and strength were in some degree restored to me.

Then Susan Gray, having finished her story, fell upon her knees, and praised God in the most solemn manner.

kindness to her in a way which made the tears flow afresh from our eyes; for as you may suppose, they had often flowed abundantly before, during the time of our hearing the sad story of this good girl.

After she had finished her history, she lived only three days; but never, never, surely did any one prepare for death with so much joy, such holy hope and humble confidence in God, as did this excellent young woman!

The night before she died I gave her the sacrament, my wife and two eldest daughters being present, and partaking of the holy feast with her.

But before she would suffer me to begin the sacred office, she called God to witness that she from her heart forgave all those who had by any means done her any ill: she particularly mentioned the names of Mrs. Bennet, Charlotte Owen, and the Captain: and prayed Heaven to bless them, and to give them, before it was too late, a full sense of their wicked lives, that so they might repent and be partakers, through the merits of their Saviour, of everlasting happiness.

After she had taken the holy sacrament, she fell into a sweet sleep, from which she awoke at dawn of day. Her nurse saw by the change which had taken place in her during the night, that she had not many hours to live, and immediately sent for me and my wife

When we came into the room and stood by her bed side, she smiled, but did not speak. I asked her how she did, and how she had rested? She made no answer, but held out her pale cold hand to mine.

She soon afterwards asked for her Bible; and when it was brought to her, and laid beside her, she seemed satisfied, and did not attempt to open it.

She grew fainter and fainter, and was not able to take any thing; but she often raised her eyes to heaven, and clasped her hands together. A few moments before she died we heard her repeat in a soft low voice, and very distinctly indeed, the holy name of her Saviour. She smiled at us who stood weeping around her, and closing her eyes, died so easy and so gently, that for some moments after her soul had quitted its mortal case, we believed she was only sleeping.

Her head, which rested upon a pillow, was dressed as it had been when she was still living, in a neat cap with a plaited border and bound with a white band; and still it might be seen by those who looked at her, that the time was not long passed when she was very beautiful. But what is mortal beauty that we should take delight therein! "All the glory of man is as the flower of grass." 1 Pet. i. 24.

✓ About this time the history of Susan began to be much talked of in and about Ludlow, it now being generally known that she had ran away from her mistress. ✓ Some took her part and said that she had been very ill used; and others spoke up for Mrs. Bennet. ✓ Many of my neighbours came to me to know the truth of this strange story, and indeed some persons called upon me on that account whom I had never seen before.

✓ Amongst these were my lady West and her nieces. They were very anxious to know if all they had heard was true; for by some means it had come to their knowledge that Mrs. Bennet had used their names to deceive the poor girl.

✓ When I told these ladies the true history of Susan, and how nobly she had resisted temptation, they all shed tears; and my lady West said, that she had been strangely deceived in Mrs. Bennet, and had been a ver

kind friend to her, because she thought her to be a very good woman : but henceforward, added she, I will do no more for her.

Then these ladies would go to nurse Browne's, to see the remains of poor Susan ; and as they walked through my garden, the young ladies gathered roses and other sweet flowers to lay upon her.

When they came into the room where the corpse lay, they all shed tears afresh. They looked for a long time on her sweet composed face ; for she had died so easily, and in so heavenly a state of mind, that there was nothing ghastly or frightful in her appearance ; she rather looked as if she was still sleeping.

Sweet young creature, said my lady West, as she looked at her ; would to heaven that I had known her sad situation with that wicked woman ! I would have taken her into my family, and she never should have known

me, when I proposed that Susan Gray should be buried? For, said she, I and my nieces intend to be present at her funeral, that we may do all the honor in our power to this most virtuous young woman.

The Sunday following the day of Susan's death was the day of her funeral.

According to the custom of the parish, she was buried at the time of evening service. I will describe the manner of her funeral, for the satisfaction of those good persons, who take delight in these solemn scenes.

It was early in August, and the weather was very fine. When all the congregation was assembled in the church, (and I never remember to have seen in it so large or so genteel a congregation. for there were many ladies and gentlemen from Ludlow, also my Lady West and her nieces, and the squire of the next parish, with his family) I entered the church in my gown and cassock, followed by six young women dressed in white bearing the coffin. My three daughters, and three daughters of a farmer in my parish, followed as mourners dressed also in white, with hoods of fine white linen. As I walked up the aisle I repeated these words from the burial service.

"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whose-

why need say that I can do

ever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.

“ I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth : and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God ; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another.

“ We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out ; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.” 1 Tim. vi. 7. Job i. 21.

The coffin was placed upon a bier in the middle of the church, and all the young women stood round it whilst I read the evening prayers. After the prayers, the ninetieth psalm was sung by the whole congregation ; which being finished, I preached a Sermon upon the text which follows :

been; yet you must be all sensible that you are surrounded by many and very great dangers. The young are daily and hourly tempted to forsake their duties for their pleasures, and the aged are tempted to the love of money and to worldly anxiety. Some of you are tempted by prosperity to love the world too well, and others in adversity to murmur against your Maker: but, my children, pray without ceasing to your God for his divine help; for as the holy apostle says, "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Then I finished my sermon by speaking of the joy prepared for those who have kept their innocence through all the trials of this life; the promises of God made to his saints; the robes of light, the crowns of glory, and the dwellings of eternal happiness, which through the merits of our Saviour will be obtained by those who have loved their God and obeyed his commandments: and I concluded with a solemn prayer, that all the congregation then present might with our beloved sister, now no more, be thought worthy through the merits of our Saviour to meet in the presence of God, where there is fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore." 1 Cor. x. 13.

After the sermon I finished the burial-service, and all the congregation followed the coffin to the grave.

Every one present shed tears when the earth was cast upon the body : but surely they were tears of joy ; for I have heard many persons who were then present since say, that they would gladly have taken the place of Susan Gray, and have laid themselves down with her in the dust, could they thus have deserved the reward of her good deeds.

Susan Gray was buried by the side of her dear parents ; and my lady West was so good as to cause a monument of white stone to be placed over her grave. These words are engraven on the stone :

“ To the memory of Susan Gray, who departed this life in the twentieth year of her age, on the 20th day of July, in the year of

from her native cottage to earn her bread in the wide wicked world.

Mrs. Bennet has been dead nearly ten years: she died in the workhouse in Ludlow, where she spent the last five years of her life in a most miserable way. For after the story of Susan Gray was known all her friends forsook her, and her customers fell off one by one; till at length the old woman having spent the few guineas which the Captain had given her for her wicked services, was obliged to give up her cottage, to sell her furniture, and to go into the poor-house; where from confinement and hard living, she soon fell into a bad state of health, and having lingered in sad pain for a few years, died, without one friend to weep over her. Thus she received the recompense of her wicked deeds even in this world, and terrible is it to be feared will be her lot in the world to come. "Behold the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven, and all the proud, yea and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Mal. iv. 1.

It was not till after Susan Gray had been dead seven years, that I heard of the sad end of Charlotte Owen. She went, as has been before said, after the Captain when he left

wicked man, in spite of all the
promises he had made to Susan
married about twelve months
ago in Ireland.

The Captain then left Charlotte
and went abroad to the West Indies
some time afterwards that I
having thought of repenting

What became of Charlotte
time for some years I could not
well know that she led a virtuous
life for at the end of six years, a
man who is a clergyman in London
and who was in the country, told me that
in the past he had visited a poor
woman dying in a garret, in a narrow
London; that she said her
name was Charlotte Owen, that Ludlow was

she said she could not endure the thoughts of death, and made use of the most profane and shocking words when the doctor told her that he could not save her.

In this dreadful state she lay for some days : and although the pain of her body was very great, yet it was nothing to the grief and anguish of her mind.

As soon as she was dead, her body was thrown into a coffin by the mistress of the house in which she lodged, and she was buried immediately, for she had no friend to watch by her, or to close her eyes, or to see that the last offices were performed decently for her.

And now I must finish my story, by beseeching you, my good young women, to take warning by the sad end of this wicked girl, and to shun the ways of sin which lead to eternal misery.

Remember Susan Gray, and let her example be ever in your mind ; and let it not be your wish to be rich and great, to seek for distinction and pleasure in this world, but to do your duty in that humble state in which God has placed you. And however lowly and poor that state may be, yet fear not that you will fail of your reward : God is no respecter of persons, but he will reward every man according to his deeds.

unto the day of judgment
deliver the unjust
reserve the unjust
to be punished." 2 Pet. ii. 4. 9.







reserve the unjust unto the day
to be punished." 2 Pet. ii. 4. C











